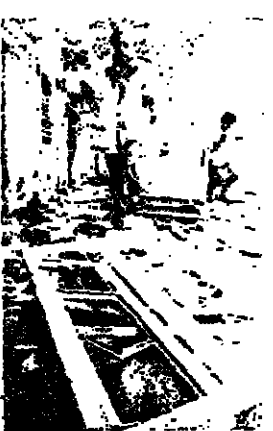


IRAN NEWS

Sheikh Nasrallah of Lebanon's Hezbollah Agreed to a Coalition with the Shia Amal Movement Sept. 6, But Accused Prime Minister Hariri of Launching a War Against Hezbollah

An Earthquake Measuring 6 on Richter Scale Shook the Town of Ston in Croatia Sept. 6, Damaging All the Buildings in This Town Near Dubrovnik



VOL. II, No. 545 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials

Sunday September 8, 1996, Shahrvivar 18, 1375, Rabi II 23, 1417

Kashmir Votes Amid Violence



SRINAGAR, INDIA: Demonstrators throw stones at the border security forces here Sept. 6. The anti-election demonstration was held by locals on the eve of state elections. This month's polls are the first to elect a state assembly in Kashmir since 1987. (AFP Photo)

SRINAGAR, INDIA (AFP) - Eleven people were killed yesterday as thousands of voters braved death threats in Kashmir's first state polls for nearly a decade. Officials said.

More than half the 1.3 million electorate in India's only Muslim-majority state cast their ballots on the opening day of polling, they announced, despite separatist militant calls for a boycott.

Kashmir government spokesman Ashok Kumar said the turnout was between 50-53 percent, adding: "I am happy to announce that the process has been completed satisfactorily."

"The poll percentage is encouraging. The elections were held free and fair. Polling was incident free in spite of the militant threats."

The United News of India

(UPI) reported only four of the 11 deaths were poll-related.

State election commissioner Jalil Khan added he was delighted no polling officers or candidates had been killed, adding four voter complaints were being investigated.

The number of voters varied from more than 50 percent throughout the Hindu-populated

EU Tries Closing Ranks Over U.S. Strike

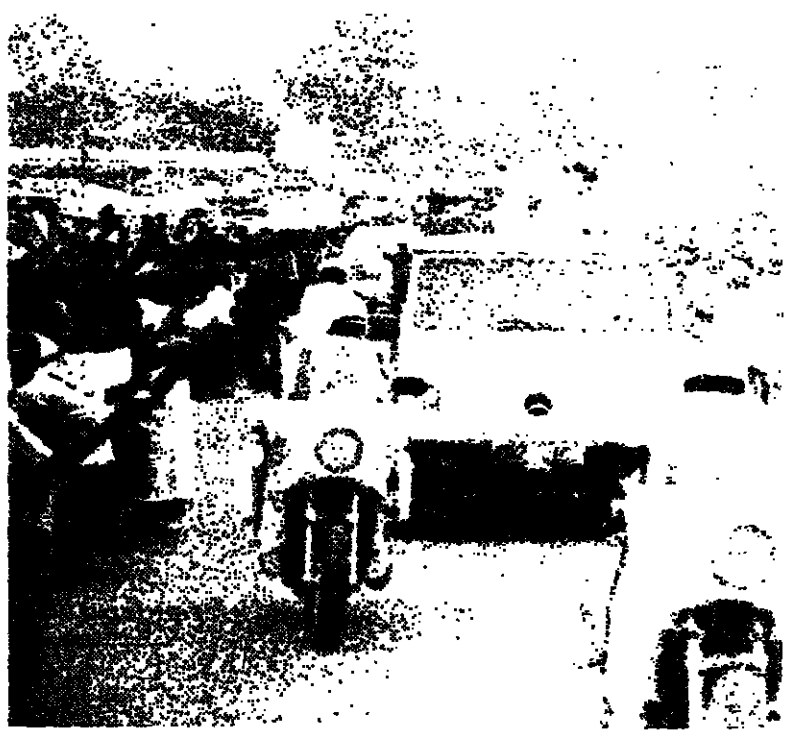
TRALEE, IRELAND (AFP) - European Union foreign ministers met here yesterday in a bid to smooth over deep divisions on the U.S. Cruise missile strikes in Iraq that have again underlined the problems the 15-nation bloc faces as it seeks to forge a common foreign policy.

Britain and Germany strongly backed the missile strikes this week but France has been sharply critical of Washington's stance. Senior sources ruled out again yesterday French participation in enforcing a "no-fly" zone which the United States wants to extend to within 50 kilometers (30 miles) of Baghdad.

Arriving for the talks, British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind reiterated London's belief that the U.S. action had been right.

"If some people don't like that tough action, then they must present a credible and convincing alternative."

See Page 13



Ugandans lined up the streets to greet President Rafsanjani

IRAN-UGANDA SIGN NINE AGREEMENTS Rafsanjani Visits Sudan, Tries Mediating Between Kampala and Khartoum

KAMPALA, UGANDA - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani will visit Khartoum today to mediate between Uganda and Sudan to reduce tension between the two countries and help establish peace and tranquility in East Africa.

The visit is taking place on the third leg of President Rafsanjani's visit to Africa which has so far taken him to Kenya and Uganda. Rafsanjani will also visit Tanzania, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Iran and Uganda signed nine agreements on wide-ranging cooperation between the two countries.

While in Sudan, the Iranian President will discuss major regional and international issues and bilateral relations with his Sudanese counterpart.

See Page 13

Iraq Hails Defeat of British Bid for U.N. Condemnation

BAGHDAD, IRAQ (AFP) - Iraq yesterday hailed the defeat of a British plan for U.N. condemnation of its raid into Kurdistan but the victory offered little consolation to Iraqis suffering from six years of U.N. sanctions.

"The dirty American is defeated. Iraq imposed its rights in international bodies," the official Al-Qadisiya newspaper said. "The United States and Britain suffered a crushing political defeat in the Security Council."

Iraq had previously been condemned dozens of times for its actions since the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Britain, whose draft was backed by the United States, on Friday abandoned efforts to secure a U.N. condemnation of the Iraqi incursion into a Kurdish "safe haven" after four days of fruitless negotiations.

The draft resolution from the outset faced fierce resistance from the three other permanent U.N. Security Council members with veto power - China, France and

Yeltsin Sees Kohl Before Surgery

MOSCOW, RUSSIA (AFP) - President Boris Yeltsin held talks with his "good friend" German Chancellor Helmut Kohl yesterday in what was likely to be his last meeting with a foreign leader before undergoing heart bypass surgery.

Kohl asked after Yeltsin's health and how serious the operation would be, during 35 minutes of face-to-face talks, Itar-Tass news agency said.

Yeltsin, 65, announced Thursday he had heart disease and would be operated on later this

month, breaking an official veil of secrecy over his health.

The two leaders met at Yeltsin's Zavidovo country residence outside Moscow to discuss Russia's opposition to expansion of NATO, the diplomatic row over U.S. air strikes in Iraq and the peace process in Chechnya.

Their meeting, including lunch, a walk and a spot of fishing, was expected to last about four hours, before Kohl returns to Germany, Russian news agencies said.

See Page 13



EU, SC Diplomats in Tehran Meet Vaezi

TEHRAN - Top diplomatic representatives from the 15-member European Union (EU) and also the representatives of Security Council's permanent member states in Tehran will go to the Foreign Ministry today to hear the views of the Islamic Republic on several regional and international issues including the recent developments in Iraq, an informed source said yesterday.

Deputy Foreign Minister in charge of European and American Affairs, Mahmoud Vaezi, "will brief the diplomats and present Iran's views and policies on several international and regional issues," a source told IRAN NEWS on condition of anonymity.

Permanent members of the Security Council are Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States. U.S. does not have a diplomatic mission here since Tehran broke diplomatic ties with Washington in 1980.

"Iraq and the U.S. missile attack on Baghdad, the crisis in Northern Iraq, and other related issues will be on the agenda when Vaezi and the European diplomats meet," the source said.

Vaezi, in a recent interview with IRAN NEWS condemned the U.S. missile attack on Iraq.

See Page 13

Arafat Blames Israeli Policy for Slowing Peace Process

CERNOBBIO, ITALY (AFP) - Palestinian President Yasser Arafat warned here yesterday that the progress of the Middle East peace process was being threatened by Israel's rightwing government.

"The peace process faces real danger as a result of the policies of the new Israeli government," Arafat told an international economics conference.

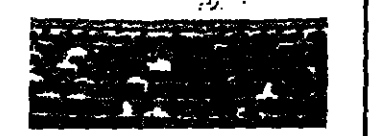
He cited Israeli policy on settlements, the "adamant position" on the issue of holy Jerusalem where Israel "forbids Muslims and Christians from carrying out their religious rites," and "deliberate delays" in re-deploying from the

city of Hebron and in implementing issues of the transitional stage as obstacles to the establishment of peace.

"In addition to that, there are provoking and aggressive statements made against us and against the Syrian and Lebanese sides," he said during a round table at the annual Cernobbio Conference, organized by the Studio Ambrosetti Institute.

Among those attending the conference were former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and the governors of the Bundesbank and Bank of France, Hans Tietmeyer

SUMMARY



Nateq at Women's Conference Page 2



U.S. Chopper Down in Orlando Page 15



Esteglal 3-Nowbahar 0 Page 16

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EDITORIAL

Clinton's Personal Motives Damage U.S. Prestige

With the countdown to U.S. November presidential elections getting closer, the administration of President Bill Clinton once more failed in its desperate efforts to muster international support for its role as the self-appointed global policeman.

Earlier, on August 5, President Clinton signed a bill into law to punish foreign companies if they invest more than \$40 million in oil and gas industries of Iran and Libya in one year.

Among U.S. allies only Israel supported the move, while even its closest friends in the East and the West snubbed Washington. The move infuriated many of U.S. allies who said Washington's action was an extraterritorial measure.

America's allies were surprised and angry when Clinton personally ordered dozens of missiles fired at Baghdad in order to woo the voters just before the elections.

Clinton received a negative response again, and the international opinion was highly critical wondering how the U.S. could expect a favorable response to launching deadly missiles at a far away country without any regard for the safety of innocent civilians.

To save face, the U.S. tried to coerce the Security Council into providing an international stamp of approval for Washington's military adventurism which added fuel to the great fires of the human tragedy of the people of Iraq. There too the U.S. could not convince most members of the Security Council, particularly France, Russia and China.

Facing a definite veto in the Security Council, Secretary of State Warren Christopher traveled to London, Paris and Bonn last week to bolster international support for the attack on Iraq.

The world was not surprised when, on the basis of the so-called "special relationship," Britain supported the U.S. missile attack on Baghdad as well as and the extension of the no-fly zone in Southern Iraq.

Britain no longer enjoys the political and economic status it once did, so, its support for the U.S., and its other inconsistent and irrational behavior are understandable.

Another country which toed the Washington line was Germany. Analysts believe that Germany threw its weight behind the U.S. missile attack on Iraq as a move to clean its slate on the Iraqi issue.

It was a German company that supplied chemical weapons to the Baghdad regime which Saddam used against its own Kurdish community and massacred them during the 1980-88 war. Now, acting against the Iraqi regime, Bonn tried to ease its own conscience and reduce its guilty feelings. But Chancellor Helmut Kohl simply ignored the fact that Iraq's civilian population, not the Iraqi dictator Saddam, was the issue. Saddam, with all the covert blessings of the U.S., is still very much in power and is leading a good life. It is the nation of Iraq which has been suffering from internal and external tyranny.

Three cheers for France and for President Jacques Chirac who said, "Iraq did not violate U.N. resolution"

See Page 13

Nateq-Nouri Says Progress Attained Since Revolution



Majlis Speaker Nateq-Nouri (2ndL) and Health Minister Dr. Marandi (C)

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri said here yesterday that Iran has achieved great success in research, study and the education of specialists since the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

He was addressing the fifth congress of refresher training on women's diseases and midwifery, in Tehran.

The Majlis Speaker said world arrogance had tried to impede Iran's progress but has never succeeded.

He said that since the Revolution, scientific and education centers have expanded rapidly, and since 1989, a great construction drive has begun and is continuing successfully.

"These days, the most sophisticated industries in the country are being managed by Iranians and we are now able to build silos, refineries and power plants without relying on foreign assistance," Nateq-Nouri said.

The Speaker added that Iran had so fortified its technology that is now conducting joint ventures in neighboring countries.

Maleki Discusses Ties with Georgia

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Peace in the Caucasus could be jeopardized by contagious violence spreading from places like Chechnya, according to visiting Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister Malchaz Kakabadze, conferring with his Iranian counterpart, Abbas Maleki, here yesterday.

Kakabadze, here heading a political-scientific delegation, emphasized the importance of Eduard Shevardnadze's peace initiative titled "Peace in Caucasus." He said the existing crisis in the Caucasus is like a contagious disease which will spread to other parts of the area if ignored.

Kakabadze pointed out that the Chechen crisis is liable to spread to Dagestan "in the same way that other ethnic groups infiltrated into

Abkhazia and instigated a war against us," he said. Nobody in the Caucasus would benefit from an acceleration of the crisis, he said.

The Chechen crisis has so far killed nearly 100 thousand people, and if war spread into other areas these fatalities would drastically increase, he said.

The Georgian foreign minister put promoted Shevardnadze's initiative and said that through the mediation of regional states such as Iran, Russia and Turkey, the peace process should be genuinely followed.

The Georgian government believes that Irano-Georgian round-table talks are a good model for the whole world and demonstrate both countries' ability to cooperate in all areas.

Maleki said that in view of bilateral cultural-scientific cooperation, Georgian researchers and university professors should expand their cooperation with Iranian cultural centers.

The Head of Oriental Studies of Georgia, Tamaz Ganukrelidze, pointed out that "our mutual cultural ties differ from that of relations with other countries. Tbilisi State University, Science Academy and Georgian Oriental Studies have good cooperation with Iranian centers." He said he hoped that the relations will expand.

The first session of the round-table will convene today at the Political and International Studies Center, and will continue for two days.

President Congratulates Macedonian Counterpart on National Day

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - On the occasion of the former Yugoslav Republic national day the Iranian President, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani congratulated the Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov and the Macedonian people in a cable yesterday.

The President expressed hopes for further broadening of ties between Iran and Macedonia in all bilateral and international areas, according to IRNA. Accompanied by a top level delegation, President Rafsanjani is currently in Uganda on the second leg of a six-nation African tour.

ADVERTISE IN
IRAN NEWS

Iran Dismisses Egyptian Allegations

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

KAMPALA - The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman here Friday dismissed allegations leveled by Ussama al-Baz, adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, on Iran's involvement in the assassination attempt against Mubarak in Ethiopia last year.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi, who is accompanying President Rafsanjani said on his African tour, the Egyptian regime has a long record of making baseless remarks in pursuit of its Zionist-U.S. oriented diplomacy. "The world is familiar with this unpleasing



MOHAMMADI

Egyptian policy," he said.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has a basic and unchanging principle of condemning acts of terrorism, he pointed out.

In an interview with the Qatari News Agency on Thursday, QNA, Ussama al-Baz said that an Egyptian group carried out the attack in Addis Ababa in June 1995 with the help of Sudan and Iran.

Mohammadi said that the Islamic Republic of Iran regards the statement, made on the eve of the visit to Sudan of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, as a sign of Egyptian regime's concern over close relations among Islamic countries, and an attempt to shift the blame for domestic problems of Egypt to foreign countries.

President Rafsanjani is to visit Khartoum, on the third leg of his 6-nation tour of Africa today.

Iranian Cultural House Opens in Almaty

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Cultural House of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened in Almaty yesterday.

Kazakh Minister of Education Murat Zhurinov, speaking at the inauguration ceremony, expressed his pleasure with the opening of the Cultural House because he said, it would serve to familiarize the Kazakh nation with Iran's rich culture and arts. Zhurinov, IRNA reported, said the two nations of Iran and Kazakhstan have a longstanding cultural relationship and are currently undertaking various educational and cultural cooperative activities.

At the opening ceremony the Iranian Ambassador to Almaty, Rasul Eslami and the Iranian Cultural Attache to Almaty, Mehdi

See Page 13

Ugandan Women Meet Mrs. Rafsanjani

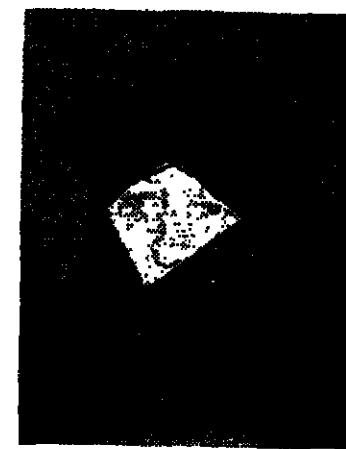
IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

KAMPALA, UGANDA - Ugandan minister of state for women affairs accompanied by a group of Ugandan Muslim women managers met with Mrs. Rafsanjani here Friday night.

Addressing the visitors, including members of the Ugandan Organization for the Muslim Women Academics, Mrs. Effat Rafsanjani (Marashi) conveyed the friendship message of the Iranian women to those of Uganda.

Mrs. Rafsanjani expressed hope that expansion of cooperation between the Iranian and Ugandan women will consolidate Tehran-Kampala ties.

Referring to the enemy's propaganda campaign on status of women in Iran, Mrs. Rafsanjani said that following the successful culmination of the 1979 Islamic Revolution led by the late Imam Khomeini, and under the wise leadership of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed



MARASHI

Ali Khamenei, the Iranian women have succeeded in attaining their right place in the society. As a result Iranian women are actively present in all fields of endeavor nationwide.

The Ugandan Organization for Muslim Women was founded in 1994 with the objective of raising the Ugandan women's economic power and status.

کتابخانه

Iran Dismisses Egyptian Allegations



MOHAMMAD ALI NAJAFI

Iranian Cultural House Opens in Almaty

IRAN DOMESTIC NEWS

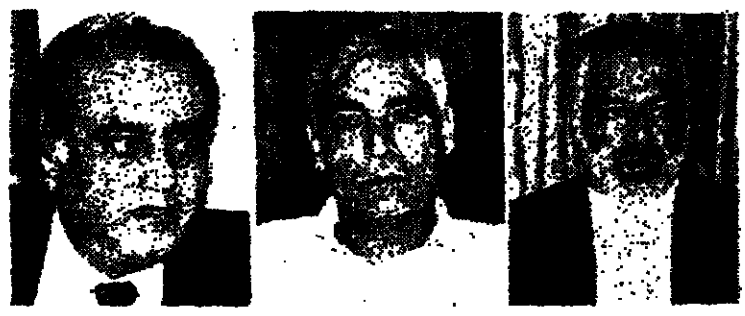


Brig. Saleem Hosts Dinner on Pakistan's Defense Day

Pakistan Embassy Defense Attache Brig. Mohammad Saleem invited Iran's top brass and journalists for a briefing on the significance of Sept. 6, which is celebrated as Defense Day in his country every year.

On this day in 1965, Pakistan and India were involved in a war of weapons for the second time after their independence in 1947.

As in the first, the 16-day war in 1965 was fought over disputed Kashmir, one-third of which is ruled by India and the remaining third by Pakistan, while, as Brig. Saleem said, keeping a resolution of the Security Council for plebiscite pending.



(From left) Khalid Mahmood, Brig. Saleem, Brig. Gen. Dehqan

Pakistan Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Iran's Joint Staff Headquarters Brig. Gen. Hashemi, Brig. Gen. Parviz Dehqan, Brig. Gen. Bakhtiari, Col Mohammad Shirazi Nia and Capt. Ali Ghasemi Imani were there to listen and observe the situation in Kashmir.



Imani, Hafezi, Malik

(Photo by ABDI)

Addressing the guests in Farsi, the host, Brig. Saleem, outlined the activities of the Kashmiris and blamed India for turning a deaf ear. The Kashmiris suffered as never before through India's suppression, Brig. Saleem said.

Two videos were shown to the guests, including 'India's Recipe to Crush the Freedom Movement in Kashmir' and 'Tell-Tale of Elections in Indian-Occupied Kashmir.'

Both films consisted of footage from different television networks, including India's ZEE and Door Darshan, and also CNN and BBC, which depicted the deteriorating law and order in Kashmir. Television footage tried to prove that, so far, all elections held in Kashmir were a sham, and that the same is true for current polling which has been boycotted by 'freedom fighters.'

Veteran Iranian pilot Parviz Dehqan was talking to Ambassador Khalid Mahmood. Dehqan lost one of his hands while he was flying on a mission on the border during the 1980-88 Iraqi imposed war.

Pakistan Embassy Counselor Fazalur Rahman, Asghar Mehmood and Capt. Asad Manzoor were there, along with Iranian journalists including Kayhan International's Amin Sabooni and Jomhuri Islami's Ahmad Sajedi.

Food served to the guests included chicken corn soup, Pulao, meat ball, chicken karrahi, fish, lady fingers, mango ice cream and green tea.

Little Bushra, daughter of Brig. Saleem, was around to shoot with her handy video camera.



Back to School for 18m Iranian Kids

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - Vice-President Hassan Habibi rang the school bell yesterday to signal the start of the new academic year.

Some 18.3 million children went back to school, 51.5 percent of which are in elementary school, 28 percent in junior high and the remaining 19 percent are in high school.

Speaking at one school in south of Tehran, the Vice-President said that the government will do its utmost to facilitate the education of Iranian children.

He asked the nation's students

to do their best with perseverance and diligence in learning their lessons and acquiring an education.

Habibi said the improvement of education facilities in poor parts of the country was very significant, and pointed out that the current fiscal year budget for the Ministry of Education is 634 billion tomans.

Education Minister Mohammad Ali Najafi was also present at the gathering and provided the audience with his ministry's agenda for the current academic year.

Pakistani Chief Justice in Tehran

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Chief Justice of Pakistan, Ahmad Ali-Shah heading a high-ranking judicial delegation arrived here yesterday.

The purpose of his visit to Tehran Ali-Shah said, was to exchange views with Iranian judicial officers on Islamizing the judiciary system in Pakistan, and to benefit from Iran's invaluable experiences in the execution of Islamic laws.

The Head of Iran's Supreme Court Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammadi Gilani, stated that in his meeting with Ahmad Ali-Shah his talks will primarily focus on Islamic judicial issues.

Ali-Shah noted that in the areas of commerce, economy and politics Iran and Pakistan have established "closer" bilateral ties. Currently Pakistani officials have been making efforts to expand Te-

hran-Islamabad relations in the judicial field, IRNA reported.

Gilani welcomed the proposal on Islamic judicial cooperations between the Iranian and Pakistani Supreme Courts, and announced Iran's readiness to extend full cooperation to Pakistan in this regard.

Referring to the consolidation of cordial ties among Muslim states, Ali-Shah stated that the unity, coordination and harmony which exist between Iran and Pakistan has laid a foundation for other Muslim nations to follow and achieve unity among one another.

Ali-Shah is also to confer with the Head of the Judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, Majlis Speaker Hojjatolislam Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri and the Minister of Justice Esmail Shoushtrari during his six-day stay in Tehran.

Iran, the Only Muslim Country at Moscow's 2nd Int'l Book Fair

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - A stall for Iranian publishers has been made available at the Second International Book Fair in Moscow which opened to visitors on Wednesday. Numerous books by Iranian authors written in Farsi, English and Russian are on display at the fair. Iran is the only Muslim country that has a stall at the exhibition.

Among the published works at the book fair are translations of the last will and testament of Imam Khomeini, his message to Gorbachev, as well as books for learning the Holy Quran and other Islamic topics.

Students majoring in Persian and Iranian studies visited the Iranian stall at the exhibition from the universities of Moscow and St. Petersburg.

The book fair will remain open to visitors until today, according to IRNA.

The Superintendent of the International Publications Department of Iran's Ershad Ministry, Gholamreza Anssari said that the Iranian stall had drawn a very large number of elite visitors. He noted that they were interested in the Islamic Revolution had asked for and received portraits of Imam Khomeini and the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

Five hundred publishers participating from 27 countries have sent their books for display at the exhibition.

Ayatollah Amoli Criticises Washington and Baghdad

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Qom Friday Prayer Leader Ayatollah Javad Amoli said the objective behind Bill Clinton's attack on Iraq was to boost his chances in the forthcoming

LET'S MEMORIZE THE QURAN

SURA 63, THE HYPOCRITES (AL-MUNAFIQUN)

In the Name of God
The Beneficent, the Merciful

8. They say: When we return to Al-Madeena, The mighty shall, from there, expel the meaner, But might belongs to God and His apostle, And to the faithful, but The hypocrites know not!

*The 50th part of the Holy Quran is obtainable in exquisite book-form from: RASA Publication Tel. 883 4844-5 (F.N.)

PRAYER TIMES	
Noon (Zohr)	13:02
Evening (Maghreb)	19:41
Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:07
Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:42

TETE-A-TETE

Fanciful Security Zones!

Turkey is planning, sir, to set up a security zone along the Iraqi border to prevent infiltration by Turkish Kurdish separatists; they say it will be only a thin security zone on the Iraqi side of their common, 300-kilometer border. But, doesn't this sort of practice seem to be against international laws, master?

'No, not at all! Setting up security zones is quite in vogue these days, Israel has one in Lebanon, Turkey will have one in Iraq, and I do believe Iran could have one in Afghanistan, the U.S.A. in Mexico, Spain in France, Iraq in Kuwait, Canada in the U.S.A., Scotland in England, Saudi Arabia in Qatar, Germany in Poland. I mean, every country should be entitled to have a security zone in one's own neighbor's land.'

'What on earth do you think the world will come to, if your nefarious idea happens to catch on?'

'Nothing serious! The world shall become a much more exciting madhouse than it is today!'

ABU SINA

Fadhlollah Calls for Condemnation of U.S. Aggression

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Leader of the Friday Congregational Prayers of Beirut, Allameh Seyed Mohammad Hussein Fadhlollah, said the unjustified attacks on Iraq by the U.S. were aimed at protecting Washington's political, economic and security interests in the region.

Addressing the Friday prayers in south Beirut, the prominent Lebanese Alim called on the freedom loving nations of the world to condemn the aggressive U.S. actions and its role in the region.

The upcoming presidential elections in America is the unjustified and prime motivational factor behind these aggressive actions, he added.

Allameh Fadhlollah, IRNA reported, in the recently held Lebanese parliamentary elections, referred to the cooperation of the



two Shia faction coalitions, Amal and Hizbollah, as a positive example of unity between the two Shia groups. He was hopeful that this cooperation will spread to other areas as well.

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Kalantari Says Listen to International Buyers

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Minister of Agriculture Issa Kalantari said here yesterday that Iran had to cater to the needs of international buyers in order to promote agricultural exports, cultivating products that purchasers demand.

Kalantari was addressing the opening ceremony of a 2-day seminar on Iranian agriculture and international markets, held at the Ministry of Agriculture's headquarters.

"Unfortunately, we have failed to consider this important priority in our agricultural exports and have thought it sufficient to export our surplus only," Kalantari said.

Iran, while upgrading its produce quality, must concentrate on the market and customer demand, the minister said. The country needs enormous amounts of capital and a lot of training to increase its share in the international market, he added.

"Otherwise, despite our great potential, we cannot gain any sizeable portion of the international markets."

Kalantari said the nation must economize its agriculture, enhance productivity and make better use of its agricultural privileges.

Another item for debate and resolution during the seminar is Iran's membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO). Kalantari said, an issue "which should be attended to very quickly."

Dr. Hossein Azimi, a leading economist, spoke of the impact of political and economic policies on exports of agricultural products.

"We should specify precisely what policies are to be adopted in



order to make our agriculture global," Azimi said.

He said the agricultural sector needed to make many changes in order to boost the economy, better utilize resources and improve employment. The industrial sector should also be cooperating with the agricultural sector for better achievements, he said.

Azimi said Iran should not be concentrating on the volume of exports but, like the majority of other nations, should focus on the quality of the crop and its method

of export.

He pointed out that presently the volume of exports is high but the value of the produce has remained unchanged.

The seminar, which is attended by university professors and agricultural specialists, will hear lectures on the foreign trade structure of Iran, Iran's membership in the WTO, Iran's relative privileges in agriculture, policies adopted to promote export and Iran's export capacity with an eye to domestic consumption.

15b Rials for Development Projects

SAHEDAN, SISTAN-BALUCHISTAN PROVINCE (IRNA) - The Governor General of Sistan-Baluchistan Province Ali Jahan Bakhsh said yesterday that a credit of 15 billion rials has been allocated for implementation of more than 13 development projects in this province.

Speaking at the planning committee meeting yesterday, he further added that of the total credit, 7 billion rials will be spent on implementing water supply networks in rural areas while the rest will be spent on completion of roads, construction of Zahak-Zabol bridge, expansion of development-educational projects in Sistan-Baluchistan University and of radio and TV networks.

Iran, Uganda to Broaden Cooperation

KAMPALA, UGANDA (IRNA) - The visiting Iranian ministers of commerce and industries, Yahya Al-e Eshaq and Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh voiced Iran's readiness to upgrade ties with Uganda.

The two ministers who are accompanying President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in his tour of six-African nations, made the remark in a meeting with chairman and members of the Ugandan Chamber of Commerce Friday night.

Enumerating Iran's potentials, the commerce minister said grounds exist for cooperation of the two countries in various fields including construction of dams as well as technical and agricultural engineering services.

He also proposed formation of a joint Iran-Uganda Chamber of Commerce to pave the way for

cooperation of private sectors and expand relations between the chambers of commerce of the two countries.

He also voiced Iran's readiness to set up a trade center in Kampala.

Nematzadeh also voiced Iran's readiness to construct joint factories in Uganda. Iran is also ready to cooperate with Kampala in the form of barter trade and assist Uganda to modernize its industries, Nematzadeh said.

The Ugandan side voiced willingness to cooperate with Iran in leather manufacturing industries, textile, foodstuff industries and agriculture.

Members of the Ugandan Chamber of Commerce were invited to attend the Tehran International Trade Fair to be held in October.

Pars Jonoubi Phase One Underway

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK
TEHRAN - The basic design of phase one of Pars Jonoubi Gas Field will be completed within the next two months, Seyed Mostafa Khoyee, managing director of Oil Engineering and Development Company (OEDC), has told Mash'al, the Ministry of Petroleum's newsletter.

He said the project is being executed by OEDC in cooperation with an Iranian engineering consultant and John Brown Company from England. It is the first giant offshore gas project where the majority of contractors are Iranian.

According to Khoyee, upon completion of phase one in 1999, Pars Jonoubi Gas Field will produce 1b cu. ft. of gas, 40 thousand barrels of liquefied gas and 200 tons of sulfur a day.

The capital needed for the phase one is between \$900 to \$1,000 million, and the government will cover half of the cost.

He said with the successful start of phase one, foreign investors have shown more confidence and eagerness to invest in the future phases of the project on a barter basis.

Pars Jonoubi is shared jointly by the Islamic Republic and Qatar and is the largest independent gas field in the world.



Goods Worth \$240m Exported Last Month

TABRIZ, EAST AZERBAIJAN PROVINCE (IRNA) - Various non-oil commodities, worth \$240 million, were exported from East Azarbaijan Province during last month (July 22-August 21). Deputy Head of Customs Office Mohammad Reza Sadeq said here yesterday.

Sadeq, who is in this northwest-provincial capital to inaugurate

a two-week long training course for Kazakh officials in Jolfa border area, said export of the commodities in the month showed 20 percent rise compared to that of the same period over the preceding year.

He noted that hand-woven carpets made up 23 percent and pistachio 10 percent of the total

export within the period, adding that the ratio of hand-woven carpet export to total amount of exports from here last year stood at six percent and that of pistachio 24 percent.

He added that the Iranian carpets had mainly been exported to the European countries and also to the Central Asian republics and other Asian states.

Officials Discuss Details of \$50b Credit Line for IMF

PARIS (AFP) - Around 25 countries due to contribute to the New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB), intended as a safety net for the IMF in the event of financial emergencies, were seeking here Friday to settle still unresolved institutional issues.

The talks brought together the 11 member countries of the Group of Ten (G10) and just over a dozen new contributors, including several European and Asia-Pacific countries, at the Paris offices of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The talks continued into the evening and the group did not announce the final outcome.

Officials said some of the new partners, including Austria, Spain and Australia, had pushed for regular meetings of NAB mem-

bers in parallel to those of the G10 in order to have an opportunity to take part in talks on world economic issues.

They said the idea ran into opposition from several G10 countries on the grounds that this would add to an already heavy and complex agenda of international economic meetings.

The creation of a separate Group of 25 (G25) or so - the total number of new participants is still not final - would also imply decisions on who should chair the group and whether it should have a separate secretariat or share secretarial services with the G10.

The sources said they did not believe differences were so serious that they might delay finalization of last May's agreement on

the NAB during the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank early next month.

Under the May agreement, the NAB will make up to \$50 billion available as a credit line that the IMF may draw on in order to weather possible crises like the one that hit Mexico at the end of 1994 and early in 1995.

This implies a doubling of the 17 billion Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) that the G10 countries could so far mobilize under their General Arrangements to Borrow (GAB), which will co-exist with the NAB under the new accord.

Activating the new credit line, at the request of the IMF's managing director, will require a meeting of all participants in the NAB and an 80 percent majority vote.

Gharazi Leaves for Zimbabwe

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK
TEHRAN - Minister of P.T.T. Mohammed Gharazi left Tehran for Zimbabwe yesterday at the head of a high ranking delegation whose task is to expand Iran-Zimbabwe telecommunication ties, IRNA reported.

Gharazi will join President Rafsanjani there.

"Mutual cooperation in engineering, further training of specialists, producing optical fibers and founding telecommunication networks are on the agenda for this visit. Deputy Minister Mohammed Karim Nasser Sarraf said.

Cooperation to this extent will exceed that of Iran's transaction with the Central Asian republics, he added.

Foreign Exchange Rates

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The following are the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Sunday.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates		Export Rates	
		SELLING	BUYING	SELLING	BUYING
Australia	dollar	1,396	1,388	2,395	2,383
Austria	schilling	168	167	289	287
Belgium	(100)francs	5,746	5,714	9,858	9,809
Canada	dollar	1,280	1,272	2,195	2,184
Denmark	krone	307	305	526	524
France	franc	346	344	593	590
Germany	mark	1,184	1,177	2,031	2,020
Italy	(100)liras	117	116	200	199
Japan	(100)yen	1,610	1,600	2,761	2,747
Netherlands	guilder	1,056	1,050	1,811	1,802
Sweden	krone	265	263	454	452
Switzerland	franc	1,457	1,449	2,499	2,487
U.K.	pound	2,753	2,738	4,723	4,700
U.S.	dollar	1,755	1,750	3,015	3,000
U.A.E.	dirham	479	476	820	818

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IRAN

WORLD NEWS

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Cooperation

seats. Once seated, in the warm sunshine, in the exciting environment of the ballpark, all the breathing difficulties seemed to disappear, and the group shouted with the best of them as a clutch hit put the Indians ahead.

And that's the lesson for us all. Put the aches and pains aside, get out and get about. With a little help from your doctor and friends, you can do it, too. It's truly magic medicine. Oh, yes, the Indians did win that day!

board, notably Russia and China.

But if the pact was not adopted now, and sent back to Geneva for renegotiation, "it might take another hundred years" to complete, Leonard said.

Butler also admitted that the treaty could be improved upon, but pointed out that India was the only country from the conference on disarmament to block the text agreed in Geneva by 60 nations.

"India alone decided to seek to prevent the rest of U.S. from having this agreement. I think the rest of U.S. are probably going to give the answer to that question next week," he said.

DECLARATION

the conflict, which would be extremely dangerous in the context of solving problems in the Middle East as a whole. Ukraine is ready to join the efforts of the international community, aimed at normalization of the circumstances, as well as averting the threat to international peace and security, and avoiding casualties among civilians.

IRAN

Sanaei both agreed that the Iranian Cultural House would work to consolidate and strengthen the existing historical friendship between the two nations.

KASHMIR

Jammu region to around 25 to 30 percent in Sopore in the Muslim-dominated Kashmir valley. The main militant trouble spot in the Himalayan region.

Long queues were reported outside many polling stations, with men and women walking long distances to vote.

Indian officials, meanwhile, accused Pakistani troops of opening fire at villages close to the border, killing one man.

"Pakistan has opened indiscriminate heavy artillery, mortar, heavy machine gun and missile fire ... in an effort to interfere in the election process," a Defense Ministry statement said.

There was no independent confirmation of the allegations.

In the northern third of the state held by Pakistan, hundreds of angry Kashmiris burned effigies of Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda.

But there was no large-scale violence yesterday in the rest of the territory, where around 50 people have died each week since 1989 in a bloody Muslim separatist drive that has cost more than 15,000 lives.

Two Muslim brothers, aged 12 and 17, died when Muslim militants threw a grenade at a village polling station 60 kilometers (37

miles) from Srinagar, officials said.

An unidentified villager reportedly died in the border firing, while a Muslim civilian was killed in a gunbattle between Muslim guerrillas and troops elsewhere in the Kashmir valley.

Yesterday's voting covered 26 of the State Assembly's 87 seats. The other three days of voting are on September 16, 21 and 30.

Earlier yesterday, militants fired four rockets at a school building housing a paramilitary camp at Kupwara but no one was injured.

Police fired shots in the air after some 300 Muslims took to the streets shouting anti-India slogans in the village of Trigram, about 100 kilometers (61 miles) northwest of Srinagar.

More than 200,000 army, paramilitary and police were deployed yesterday in a huge security operation.

Muslim separatist Leader Abdul Ghani Lone appeared to admit that the voting was high.

"Whatever may be the number of voters, the nature of the (Kashmir) dispute shall not change," he told AFP. "The movement for freedom shall not stop."

The parliamentary election in Kashmir in May was marred by allegations that Indian troops forced people to vote.

Officials here said yesterday's high turnout was due to the participation of Kashmir's main party, the National Conference, which boycotted the May ballot.

Kashmir has been ruled from the Indian capital since 1990 after the previous state government was dismissed.

CHINA

ternative strategy that would be more likely, or at least as likely, to produce the same outcome," he said.

"We have not heard that alternative, and until we do, I believe the U.S. deserves our full support. The world must send a clear message to Iraq. Further aggression will bring further response," he said.

France considers the strikes to have been an infringement of Iraqi sovereignty that cannot be justified by U.N. Security Council resolutions passed after the Persian Gulf War.

Irish diplomats acknowledged it would not be possible to overcome the fundamental differences here but indicated that there would be an attempt to establish a consensus on the need for a speedy U.N. resolution allowing Iraq to sell a limited amount of oil to fund emergency food purchases.

Rifkind attempted to play down the broader significance of the split.

There were "differences of emphasis and analysis" but France shared London's condemnation of Saddam Hussein's attacks on his Kurdish population and remained committed to policing the existing "no-fly" zone, he said.

But while Britain and France appeared willing to agree to disagree, other EU states have seen the episode as a further indication of the need to radically overhaul its policy-making structures to ensure it can make its huge economic weight felt on the world stage.

"It is a very damaging situation because it leaves U.S. on the margins of international life," Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos said. "If we do not have a unified position we are not going to be heard."

The ministers were also due to

decide on whether an EU delegation will be sent to Israel later this year to press the Israeli government to resume meaningful talks with the Palestinians.

Israel's right-wing administration has made it clear the delegation will be snubbed if the European Union also insists on calling at Orient House, the unofficial Palestinian headquarters in East Jerusalem.

The European Union's Irish presidency however has taken a strong line. "If the Israelis do not agree to our terms, the delegation will not be sent," one diplomat said.

Trans-Atlantic relations in light of the row over controversial American anti-Cuba legislation are also on the agenda for the talks here, which conclude today.

France is pushing for the Union to go on the offensive over the issue but Britain and Germany have argued for a more discreet approach to avoid inflaming the issue in the countdown to the U.S. presidential elections.

"We do not want to throw oil on the fire," a senior German diplomat said.

RUSSIA

Kohl flew from Moscow to Zavidovo by helicopter, and was met by Yeltsin, who went out onto the lawn to greet the man he has called his "good friend."

Despite the relaxed setting, Kohl's visit comes at a crucial time in Kremlin politics.

The prospect of Yeltsin being away from the Kremlin for weeks has sparked a power struggle between Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Kremlin Chief of Staff Anatoly Chubais and Security Chief Alexander Lebed.

Yeltsin's powers could be transferred to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, but only for a day or two after Yeltsin's planned heart bypass operation, presidential Chief of Staff Anatoly Chubais said yesterday.

Interfax news agency quoted Chubais as saying Yeltsin could transfer his powers to Chernomyrdin in line with the Constitution "for several hours, or a day or two" after his operation.

Itar-Tass quoted Chubais as saying Yeltsin's current state of health did not give grounds for talk of him transferring his presidential powers.

Under the Constitution, Chernomyrdin would take over power if the president died or was incapable of exercising his powers. But there is no law on deciding when the president is incapacitated, or who declares this.

Alexander Lebed, Russia's national security adviser, has acknowledged that the Kremlin battle is on to find a successor to ailing President Boris Yeltsin, according to an interview made public here yesterday.

Interviewed by the German news magazine Der Spiegel about the struggle to succeed Yeltsin, Lebed said: "Your prognosis on the Kremlin could be entirely correct."

He added, however: "It is against our customs to speak of an older man as if he is no longer there."

Lebed on Friday warned Yeltsin to name an interim president without delay and suggested Chernomyrdin should fill the breach.

IRAQ

Russia wanted the draft to criticize "the use of force" in Iraq

which would also refer to retaliatory missile strikes by Washington after Iraqi forces and their Kurdish allies seized the northern city of Arbil on August 31.

But the Americans refused to budge, insisting the resolution should only refer to Iraq's forces to ensure they keep out of the northern safe haven of Iraqi Kurdistan in future.

Al-Qadissiya said "we triumphed thanks to the rightness of our decision" to support the Kurdistan Democratic Party against the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, which Baghdad accused of being backed by Iran.

U.S. President Bill Clinton was "defeated" after receiving the support of a "weak minority" within the Security Council, it said.

Babel newspaper, run by Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday, also hailed as a victory Baghdad's decision to no longer recognize the no-fly zones imposed by the Western allies over Southern and Northern Iraq.

The United States and Britain on Wednesday extended the southern zone northward from the 32nd parallel to the 33rd parallel to punish Saddam for his attack on the north.

U.S. warplanes fired at a mobile missile launcher and turned back a pair of MiGs on Wednesday in the only Iraqi challenges to the expansion of a no-fly zone almost up to Baghdad's southern suburbs, according to U.S. officials.

In Washington, Clinton paid tribute to the "extraordinary skill and strength" of U.S. armed forces who launched the raids on Iraq and announced he will sign the 1997 Defense Spending Bill to keep them ready and able.

Clinton said in his weekly radio address that the missile strikes on Southern Iraq, in which Baghdad said six people died, had successfully curbed Saddam's military might.

But the Pentagon said late Friday that only half the 44 Cruise missiles fired at Iraqi air defense installations hit within 13 meters (yards) of their targets, and several did not fire at all.

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon defended the \$1.5 billion-missiles, however, saying they worked as well as expected.

The official triumphalism in Baghdad was at odds with the feeling of most Iraqis who struggled to make ends meet after six years of U.N. oil and trade sanctions.

In the backstreets of the working class Bab al-Sheikh neighborhood, few were aware of the latest developments at the United Nations.

"We sold the radio and television a long time ago," Hamida said from her dilapidated home.

But Hamida and her neighbors spend a lot of time talking about the U.N. oil-for-food resolution whose application was suspended unilaterally by Washington on Tuesday.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Mussa yesterday called for the resolution to be unfrozen, following the defeat of the British draft at the United Nations.

Meanwhile, Iraq appealed to Persian Gulf monarchies to bury past grievances and condemn "American aggression" against Iraq as a meeting of their foreign ministers in Riyadh began yesterday.

Despite their antipathy toward Saddam Hussein, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman failed to applaud the U.S. missile strikes.

Only Kuwait, which was occu-

WEATHER

Tehran Temperature		
Maximum	36°C	
Minimum	22°C	
Shiny sky with wind		
Temperature extremes till noon today		
High: Omidieh	45°C	
Low: Firoozkoush	6°C	
Temperature in some major cities of the world on Sept. 7, 1996		
Moscow	21°C	London 17°C
Karachi	31°C	Abu Dhabi 36°C
Kuwait	42°C	Madrid 26°C
Paris	20°C	Rome 18°C

pied by Iraq from August 1990 to February 1991, expressed "understanding" for the U.S. action.

and Jean-Claude Trichet.

In an interview published yesterday in the newspaper La Repubblica, Arafat reported that a meeting with Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai scheduled for today had now been pushed back to Thursday.

"I hope it's not the beginning of a series of postponements," the Palestinian leader said.

However, Arafat expressed his optimism that peace would eventually win through in the Middle East.

"Logic will prevail. Human values will also prevail — the values that represent equality among peoples, renouncing the means of violence, terrorism and expansion," Arafat described his meeting Wednesday with Israeli Premier Benjamin Netanyahu as "positive," adding that it had "shattered the barrier put up by certain circles to block the peace process."

IRAQ

The deputy minister also denounced the Baghdad regime for the brutal suppression of its Kurdish community.

Two rival factions in Northern Iraq, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) have been fighting each other since Aug. 17.

Their disputes are said to be over sharing of power and revenues in Northern Iraq where they have ruled virtually free from Baghdad's authority since the end of the Persian Gulf war in 1991.

Last week, Iraq intervened in the dispute and sent its forces to crush one faction, PUK, led by Jalal Talabani in support of the KDP, led by Massud Barzani.

Iran supports both the groups, and during the last five years, it has been the policy of the Islamic Republic to cultivate friendship between the two rival Kurdish groups.

Iran, Syria and Turkey have been in contact with each other to review the situation in Northern Iraq and also to coordinate their policies in the Iraqi Kurdistan.

Iran is also continuing its critical dialogue with the EU which, according to earlier reports are going ahead satisfactorily despite U.S. opposition.

The Islamic Republic applauds

IRAQ

adopted in 1991 by occupying the city of Arbil' in North Iraq." France also raised the question of legality the U.S. air strikes on Baghdad.

Now is the time for the people of the United States to decide how long they are willing to ignore the damage done to their national pride and prestige caused by their president who is motivated by personal and political reasons and to appease the Zionist lobby.

the EU for its strong stand against U.S. moves to isolate Iran economically and politically.

The current EU Troika is made up of Italy, Ireland and Luxembourg, previous, present and future heads of the EU respectively. The Netherlands represents Luxembourg as it has no embassy in Tehran.

IRAN

danese counterpart Omar al-Bashir.

On the third day of his stay in Uganda, President Rafsanjani and his delegation visited two Islamic countries, namely the Kibuli Mosque and Kuluve Islamic Institute near Kampala. He also inspected the Kakira sugar factory and traveled to the beautiful town of Jinja from where he proceeded to the Source of the Nile.

The Ugandan media continued to give extensive coverage to Rafsanjani's visit here. "Rafsanjani wants to grow bananas" read the Banner headline of the English daily 'New Vision' with a photo on its front page of Rafsanjani and President Museveni at Kawanda Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) on Thursday where the Iranian President admired the banana plants he was seeing for the first time.

Meanwhile, the New Vision, in its editorial, hailed the Iranian President's visit as a timely one. "President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani will go on record as the first Iranian leader to demonstrate interest in establishing contacts between his country and Africa. Although the country has all ways had close contacts with some Muslim sects on the Continent, political and economic contacts have been rather limited. But the President's six-country visit to Africa is likely to change all that. Besides helping Iran to break out of the highly publicized political isolation imposed on it by some western countries, the visit will provide a diplomatic blessing to the growing trade ties between Iranian and African firms. This is a timely move by Iran, which is bound to work in its favor, while at the same time benefiting its African counterparts ... We should hail the visit of the Iranian leader and his team for bringing along a group that represents a cross section of the business community that Ugandan businessmen should link up with."

The Iranian President and his Ugandan Counterpart were to hold a joint press conference yesterday.

ne Underway

Exchange Rates

RTISE IN IRAN NEWS

Muslims to Seek U.S. Guarantees over Unified Bosnia

SARAJEVO (AFP) - Bosnia's main Muslim leaders have called on the international community to guarantee that this month's election will not lead to the division of the country.

With the election of September 4 just a week away, a group of leading Muslim politicians have come together to protest at the conditions under which the poll is being held.

Tacitly accepting that the vote will go ahead regardless, the politicians have backed off from outright threats to boycott the poll and called instead for guarantees from Washington, their chief ally.

Officials in Sarajevo have said that a leading group of Muslim politicians are to go to the U.S. capital soon to present their fears to the Clinton administration over the poll.

Bosnia's first post-war elections are being prepared in a climate of fear and confusion. The international agency overseeing the vote, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), is doing little to placate these worries.

Chief amongst the Muslim's fears, is that Bosnia's Serbs whose war aim was to partition the country will simply use the legitimacy of the elections to declare the half of the country under their control, independent.

So far, the OSCE has given only a muffled response to Bosnian Serb party leaders who openly call for the secession of their half of Bosnia, the so-called Republika Srpska.

Meanwhile, the conditions supposed to be in place for the landmark polls are not there. Under terms of the U.S.-brokered Dayton Peace Agreement, everyone in Bosnia should have freedom of movement and the right to return to their homes.

Neither of these provisions have been met. Few if any refugees, chased from their homes by Serb and Croat extremists in the war, have gone back. Equally, movement across Bosnia's former frontline and now its internal boundary line, is precarious for all.

Haris Siladzic, a former prime minister and the main opposition leader to Bosnia's President Alija Izetbegovic, told a campaign rally on Friday that party leaders were seeking "guarantees" from the United States that "there must not be any secession."

"The 11 parties have decided to send a delegation to the United States and some other countries to explain the situation and to ask for some guarantees," he said.

They want assurances that until Bosnia's new-style joint institutions were formed, the old government structures would remain in place, he added.

Meanwhile, preparations for the landmark elections are forging ahead. In anticipation that tens of thousands of voters will cross former frontlines into what was enemy territory to cast their ballots, police chiefs in Bosnia have agreed on special routes for the voters to use.

Some 19 so-called recommended voter routes have been agreed between Serb, Muslim and Croat interior ministers in Sarajevo, U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko told reporters.

Further details however were unavailable though a complete plan will be unveiled on Monday, Ivanko said.



KALESIJA, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: A Bosnian Muslim man holds a poster of the Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic during a political rally in the frontline town of Kalesija some 25 km east of Tuzla, Sept. 6. Some 3000-4000 people gathered here to give their support to the SDA, Party for Democratic Action of President Izetbegovic in the Sept. 14 general elections in Bosnia. (AFP Photo)

The voter routes, which will have extra police and NATO troops from the Peace Implementation Force deployed along them have become a sensitive issue because of its impact on the right to freedom of movement.

Some international officials, responsible for implementing the civilian aspects of the accords

worry that the routes will set a precedent for limiting crossing points.

In a related report, the Bosnian government has suspended for the upcoming elections the nightly curfew imposed at the beginning of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Interior Ministry announced yesterday.

Meanwhile, supporters of Bosnia's ruling Muslim party, the SDA, were arriving in this opposition stronghold in northern Bosnia yesterday ahead of a rally scheduled for the late afternoon.

Groups of young men wrapped in the green and white of the Party of Democratic Action (SDA) could be seen at bus stops, and buses with SDA flags hanging out of the windows were driving into the town.

The organizers said some 25,000 people were expected to attend the rally in downtown Tuzla, which Bosnian Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic due to address.

Sudan Airways Hijackers Are Iraqi Islamic Activists

CAIRO, EGYPT (AFP) - The seven Iraqis who hijacked a Sudan Airways plane to London last month are Islamic activists who feared they would be extradited to Baghdad by the Sudanese government, the Arab daily Al-Hayat reported yesterday.

The hijackers "are part of a group of Islamic activist Iraqi army officers who fled their country two years ago. Some of them went to Afghanistan before coming to Khartoum," said the paper, quoting Arab sources in the Sudanese capital.

Al-Hayat added that "the Sudanese government planned to extradite these Islamic activist Iraqi officers to Baghdad."

The paper said the group originally fled Iraq after "the execution of Islamic activist army officers suspected of involvement in a coup."

The seven Iraqis commandeered a Khartoum to Amman flight and forced it to land at London's Stansted Airport on August 27, after refueling in Cyprus.

The hijackers, who surrendered and released all passengers and crew unharmed after a nine-hour stand-off, have asked for political asylum for themselves and family members who were also on the plane.

The Iraqis aged 25 to 38 are in custody in Britain where they are to appear in court again on September 9 on hijacking charges.

Pilgrim Returns from the Dead

NEW DELHI, INDIA (AFP) - Indian pilgrim Ratan Dutta did not get the welcome he expected when he returned home after surviving a Himalayan disaster that cost around 240 people their lives.

His family took one look at him, then slammed the door in his face, the United News of India (UNI) reported yesterday.

His neighbors and friends, meanwhile, fled in panic and cowered behind locked doors.

Dutta, it turned out, had been declared dead days before by an official list of the victims of last month's Amarnath pilgrimage tragedy in Kashmir.

Greek PM Takes Center Stage in Election Campaign

ATHENS, GREECE (AFP) - Prime Minister Costas Simitis has seized the spotlight in the campaign for the Greek election, which he hopes will provide him with the electoral consecration he has lacked since taking over as Socialist Party leader.

As the campaign for the September 22 vote gathers steam, he has striven to dominate the political terrain with a daily agenda of duties designed to monopolize the attention of the media.

Yesterday he was to address the country's economic strategists in

a major speech to be delivered at the Salonika Trade Fair in northern Greece.

On Thursday he laid the foundation stone of the future international airport in Athens - one of several mega-projects undertaken in Greece with European Union financial aid.

The previous day, outlining his economic and social objectives, he announced a whole series of measures to benefit farmers, pensioners and the unemployed.

On Tuesday, the anniversary of the founding of Socialist Pasok

Belarus Parliament Proposes Eliminating Presidency

MINSK, BELARUS (AP) - Openly challenging the president, lawmakers on Friday endorsed his call to hold a referendum on his proposed constitutional amendments, but added a proposal to eliminate the presidency.

Earlier Friday, President Alexander Lukashenko set the referendum for Nov. 7 and threatened to disband parliament unless it approved the date and the ballot questions without changes.

The legislators changed the vote date to Nov. 24 and added their own questions. The standoff leaves uncertain when the referendum will be held and what issues it will cover.

INDIAN MINISTER: India to Make Nuclear Weapon "As and When It Suits Us"

NEW DELHI, INDIA (AFP) - Indian External Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral asserted yesterday that the country will produce a nuclear weapon "as and when it suits us."

"We will make the weapons as and when it suits us. We are not going to let others decide for us," the minister said in a television interview which is to be aired today.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted him as saying that India would not compromise its nuclear option.

He said in an obvious reference to China, with which New Delhi

fought a brief war in 1962, that there was "a major nuclear power" around India which "could threaten the country's security today or tomorrow."

"I cannot bind my hands and also endanger the prosperity of the coming generation by not deciding or responding to a matter of security as and when it arises," he was quoted as saying.

India last month vetoed a draft of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) at the Disarmament Conference in Geneva, saying nuclear powers should first set a deadline to do away their stockpiles.

Party 22 years ago, he launched a new "manifesto" to take the party into the 21st century.

In addition, he has made it his business to visit ordinary Greeks, notably with a meeting in the working class areas of Athens and a trip to Lesbos in the Aegean.

Simitis, 60 has appealed to Greeks to back the Socialist Party saying "the 21st century begins on September 23." He called for a "unified Europe to assure world stability" and for "a socialist Europe of nations".

Taliban Claim Repulsing Government Offensive South of Kabul

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN (AFP) - Afghan government forces yesterday launched an offensive against positions of the Taliban Islamic militia near Maidan Shahr, 35 kilometers (20 miles) south of Kabul. Afghan sources in Pakistan said.

A Taliban official, Maulvi Ahmed Jan, based in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar, claimed the attack was "repulsed," but no independent confirmation was available.

Jan, quoted by Afghan Islamic press, a private information service, claimed that 20 government troops were killed in the Maidan Shahr fighting.

On another front, the Taliban earlier captured the strategically

important eastern Afghan town of Azra in Logar province.

The fall of Azra to the Taliban was confirmed yesterday by a government official in Kabul.

Hamed, spokesman for the Kabul Prime Ministry office, said that Azra was taken by the Taliban on Thursday.

The Taliban official in Peshawar also said the militia forces had made further gains in the Logar region yesterday, capturing the strategic heights of Al-Ishehr Pahar.

Jan said the Taliban fighters were well-placed to advance toward the district center of Sarobi, a government stronghold about 75 kilometers (45 miles) west of Kabul.

Bhutto's Estranged Brother Calls for Change of Government in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN (AFP) - The estranged brother of Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, yesterday accused his sister of failing to govern and called for a change of leadership.

"Pakistan will suffer a catastrophe if this government stays in office for another two years," Mir Murtaza Bhutto said at a reception hosted for him by a local union of journalists.

He claimed that the country was approaching economic collapse and anarchy because of "rampant corruption" and "mismanagement" of the Bhutto government, whose five-year term expires in 1998.

Murtaza pleaded that a constitutional formula be evolved to install an "honest, no-nonsense interim government" that should "clean up the mess" before holding the next elections.

He condemned as "total failures" Pakistan's two mainstream political forces, Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the main opposition Pakistan Muslim League led by former Premier Nawaz Sharif.

Murtaza, who heads his own splinter faction of the PPP, advocated that Pakistan explode an atomic bomb to establish its nuclear capability as rival India did in 1974.



CAIRO, EGYPT: An Egyptian groom points at his relatives during a mass wedding that took place in a hockey stadium in Cairo Sept. 6. Six hundred couples took part in the ceremony. The ceremony was Egypt's largest-ever mass wedding and the authorities here are planning to make such events an annual fixture to help young couples avoid the spiraling costs of weddings. (AFP Photo)

More than 200, Heed Call for Anti-Kohl Dem

Concerns Over Pope's Hungary Tri

Iran misses Egyptian negotiations

Helicopter Accompanying Clinton Crashes at Orlando Airport

ORLANDO, FLORIDA (AP) - A marine corps helicopter accompanying President Clinton on a campaign stop in Florida rolled over and burst into flames Friday at an Orlando airport. There were no reports of serious injury.

White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry said six people were aboard the twin-engine Boeing CH-46E Sea Knight, which went down at 11:26 a.m. (15:26 GMT) at Orlando Executive Airport.

"I'm told they all escaped under their own power," McCurry said, but there were reports that four people aboard had minor injuries.

There were conflicting accounts of the circumstances of the crash. One witness said the chopper hit a light pole and turned on its side on takeoff. Another witness said the aircraft was landing when the accident occurred.

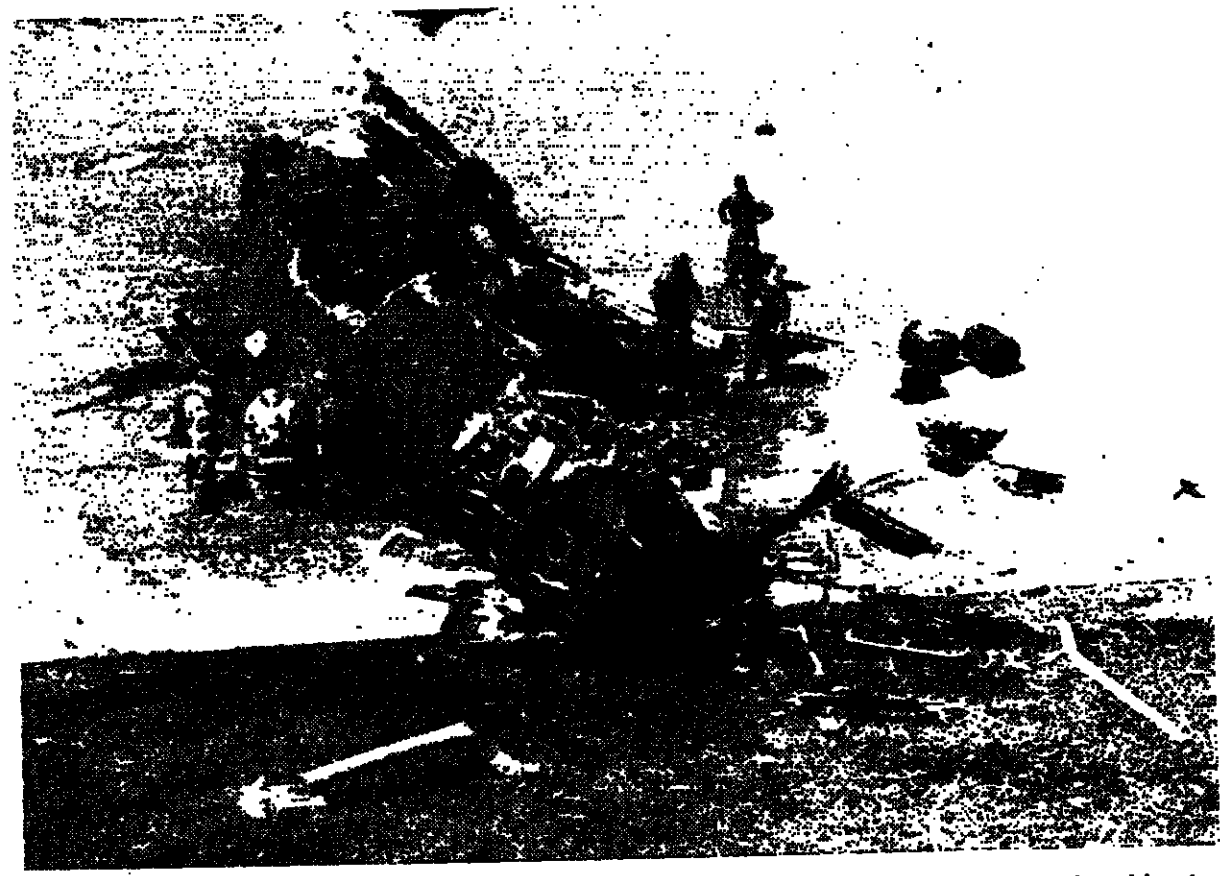
Clinton was being driven to an appearance at a local college and was told later of the accident.

The press secretary said the helicopter was used to transport reporters traveling with the president and was heading from Miami to its base at Quantico, Virginia. No civilians were aboard the craft at the time of the accident.

The crash was the second such accident involving presidential support aircraft in less than a month.

A military transport plane carrying a communications van used by Clinton crashed Aug. 17 near Jackson, Wyo. Eight air force crew members and a secret service employee were killed.

A second marine corps CH-46 helicopter supporting the president's trip made a "precautionary landing" in a field about 15 miles (24 kilometers) south of Orlando, said a military official in Washington. No one was injured.



ORLANDO, FL, UNITED STATES: A Marine CH 46-E Sea Knight helicopter lies on its side at the Orlando Executive Airport Sept. 6 after overturning while landing and catching fire. The helicopter was in town in support of President Clinton's campaign visit. Four crew members were only slightly injured. (AFP Photo)

The World at a Glance



DHAKA, BANGLADESH - Bangladesh and India yesterday agreed in principle to resolve the crucial issue of sharing Ganges River waters by January, 1997, when the dry season starts.

JOHANNESBURG, S.AFRICA - Eighteen workers were injured in renewed fighting yesterday between rival trade unions on the troubled East Driefontein Gold Mine near here, police said.

JOLO, PHILIPPINES - Muslim rebel chief-turned-regional leader Nur Misuari vowed yesterday to end corruption and drug pushing in Muslim-populated regions after he is installed as regional governor and development overseer.

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA - Leftist rebels killed at least 16 security force members in attacks in central and southern Colombia on Friday, the RCN radio network said.

JAKARTA, INDONESIA - Indonesian authorities have approved the release of six of the 124 people arrested during mass riots here in July, press reports said yesterday.

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO - The Guatemalan government and leftist guerrillas along with the United Nations agreed Friday that the peace agreement between the two sides would be signed in Madrid.

PARAMARIBO, SURINAM - Jules Wijdenbosch, allied with former dictator Desi Bouterse, has been elected president of Surinam, authorities confirmed Friday in this tiny nation on South America's north coast.

MOSCOW, RUSSIA - A Russian Proton-K space rocket blasted off from the Baikonur launching facility in Kazakhstan on Friday, carrying the Inmarsat-3, an advanced satellite belonging to an international communications consortium.

MANILA, PHILIPPINES - A Chinese-Filipino businessman, his wife, their maid and two bodyguards were stabbed to death yesterday in an apparent robbery, police said.

(DISPATCHES)

More than 200,000 Heed Call for Anti-Kohl Demos

BERLIN, GERMANY (AFP) - More than 200,000 demonstrators, far more than expected, massed yesterday on the streets of six German cities to protest Chancellor Helmut Kohl's hard-hitting austerity program, trade unions said.

The organizers, the 10-million strong German trade union confederation DGB, said more than 50,000 people rallied in Berlin, 50,000 in Stuttgart, 40,000 in Dortmund, 35,000 each in Hamburg and Leipzig and 28,000 in Ludwigshafen.

The DGB had said Friday it expected more than 100,000 people to turn out in rallies throughout the country.

The demonstrations underline trade union anger at plans to cut sick pay, make sackings in small firms easier and raise the retirement age while easing corporation tax and abolishing wealth tax.

The unions hope to block the passage of the austerity package at its final reading in the Bundestag, Germany's Lower House of Parliament, on September 13.

Health Concerns Overshadow Pope's Hungary Trip

GYOR, HUNGARY (AFP) - Persistent concerns about the health of 76-year-old Pope John Paul II continued to overshadow the program as the pontiff arrived in this western city yesterday for the second day of his Hungarian trip.

The Pope - who seemed in better shape than on Friday when, apparently exhausted, he broke off reading a speech - celebrated morning mass before 150,000 people at an industrial park on the outskirts of the city.

Again yesterday, he read only part of his speech. However, his spokesman Joaquin Navarro said that, right from the start, it had been planned that the Pope would

not deliver the entire Hungarian text, allowing a bishop to complete the reading.

The Pope yesterday also met Hungarian bishops and was later to meet Prime Minister Gyula Horn and give prayers in Gyor's cathedral before flying back to Rome.

Meanwhile, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro said here yesterday, Pope John Paul II is suffering from an intestinal infection which has not yet been diagnosed.

But Navarro said the Pope would nevertheless respect his future commitments.

Tajik Rebels Seize Northern Town of Dzhirgatal

DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN (AFP) - Up to 400 Islamic rebels ousted government forces from the town of Dzhirgatal in northern Tajikistan after a day of fighting and were still controlling it yesterday, government officials said.

Tajik Interior Ministry officials said the rebels had burned down the local headquarters of the Interior Ministry and Security Ministry in Dzhirgatal, a town mainly populated by ethnic Kyrgyz, some 300 kilometers (186 miles) north-east of the capital Dushanbe.

There was no independent confirmation of the report.

The ministry officials said two policemen were killed in the fighting and about 40 policemen had to withdraw to neighboring Kyrgyzstan.

The rebel seizure of Dzhirgatal was confirmed by Zafar Ikramov, government co-chairman of a joint Cease-fire Monitoring Commission set up with the rebels earlier.

The rebels, operating out of neighboring Afghanistan, have been battling government forces in Tajikistan since neo-Communist Leader Emomali Rakhmonov toppled a coalition of Islamic and democratic forces in December 1992.

The two sides have signed a series of cease-fire accords, but there have been frequent violations.

Opposition Parties Call General Strike in Karachi

KARACHI (AFP) - The powerful ethnic-based Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) and nine other opposition parties have called for a general strike in Karachi today to protest the alleged killing of an MQM activist by police.

In a joint appeal the parties, including the country's main opposition Pakistan Muslim League (PML) and Jamaat-e-Islami, asked for closure of business, transport and all other activities on the day.

MQM leaders said police had killed a party activist, identified as Muhammad Farooq, after arresting him here on Thursday.

Police said the MQM activist was wanted for several terrorist acts and was killed in a clash with security personnel.

MQM recently joined hands with opposition parties in a 16-party anti-government alliance which aims to oust Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Khmer Rouge Reaches Agreement with Government

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA (AFP) - The Cambodian government and a renegade faction of the Khmer Rouge have agreed to a peace settlement, Co-Premiers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen said yesterday.

"This group recognizes the royal government of Cambodia including the law that bans the Khmer Rouge, and they say that all their forces ... will join the

government as one state, one territory and one national administration," Hun Sen said in a speech just south of the capital.

Shortly afterwards, Prince Ranariddh told reporters at Phnom Penh's Pochentong International Airport that faction Leader Ieng Sary had agreed to support "liberal democracy, constitutional monarchy and the Buddhist religion."

Fran Drenches Virginia, 17 Killed

WILMINGTON, N. CAROLINA, U.S.A. (AP) - Hurricane Fran stranded hundreds of people on barrier islands and its remnants flooded Virginia hollows. More than a million customers were without power and at least 17 people were killed.

Rescue workers struggled in boats, helicopters and military vehicles to reach those endangered by flash floods in Virginia, where the ground had been saturated by days of rain before Fran dumped up to 10 more inches (25 cms).

Hostage Taking in London High Security Jail

LONDON (AFP) - Four prisoners were involved in a hostage-taking yesterday at the high security prison at Belmarsh in southeast London, a prison service spokesman said.

"We can confirm that there is a hostage incident on-going at Belmarsh Prison, south-east London, involving four prisoners," the spokesman said.

"Trained prison staff are working to bring the incident to a peaceful conclusion," he added.

Police reinforcements have been called in and are ready to move, a police spokesman said. Belmarsh is considered Britain's most secure prison and home to convicts serving long sentences including IRA terrorists.

Inmates wrote to the Guardian newspaper last month claiming they were being "driven to despair" and complaining of rising tensions at Belmarsh where some prisoners are allegedly only allowed to leave

their cells for an hour and a half a day and barred from the chapel and library.

Inmates include Paul Magee, jailed for murdering an SAS captain, and Liam O'Duibhir, serving 30 years for conspiracy to cause explosions.

Third CIA Mail Clerk Pleads Guilty

WASHINGTON, U.S.A. (AFP) - A former Central Intelligence Agency mailroom clerk pleaded guilty to charges that he and two others stole over 100 credit cards from the agency headquarters, the Justice Department said.

day to charges that he and two other clerks stole the credit cards as well as cash, documents and other items from packages passing through the CIA office in Langley, Virginia, the department said in a statement.

Gary West entered his plea Fri-



MOHAMMADI

Iranian Cultural House Opens in Almaty



PANNONHALMA, HUNGARY: Pope John Paul II (C) is guided by his host, Hungarian arch of the church of the Abbey of Abbott Asztrik Varszegi to the entrance of Pannonhalma, for the evening prayer service Sept 6. (AFP Photo)

Pepper Takes First-Round Lead

PORTLAND, OREGON (AFP) - American Dottie Pepper fired a seven under par 65 here Friday to take a three-stroke lead after the opening round of a \$550,000 LPGA tournament.

Pepper, a three-time winner this year, pulled ahead of the second-place trio of Canada's Dawn Coe-Jones and Sweden's Annika Sorenstam and Catrin Nilsmark. "I wish we putted on greens like this every week," said Pepper, who was off the LPGA tour for almost a month due to illness. Twelve others were another stroke back at 69, including Japan's Hiromi Kobayashi, Australia's Jane Crafter and Emilee Klein and defending champion Alison Nicholas of Britain.

IRAN NEWS

VOL. II, No. 545 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials
Sunday September 8, 1996, Shahrivar 18, 1375, Rabi II 23, 1417

Seles in U.S. Open Final

NEW YORK (AFP) - Monica Seles reached the U.S. Open final for the second consecutive year here on Friday with a straight-sets win over Conchita Martinez, but rain kept her waiting for the identity of her next opponent.

Seles, the 1991 and 1992 champion who finished runner-up to Steffi Graf last year after also beating Martinez in the semi-finals, kept her perfect record against the Spaniard with a 6-4, 6-3 victory.

But she said she still isn't 100 percent fit.

"I still think physically I'm not there," said Seles, who is battling a shoulder injury that interferes with her serve. "I wasn't being as aggressive as in my previous matches."

She will now face either Graf or 15-year-old Martina Hingis of Switzerland for the title.

Graf and Hingis had played the first game of their semi-final, with Hingis fighting off a break point to hold serve, when a downpour struck and the match was suspended.

About three and a half hours later, tournament officials finally cancelled play for the day.

That left the Graf-Hingis match to be completed on Saturday, along with the men's semi-finals.

Both singles finals were scheduled for Sunday, weather permitting.

If the semi-finals and finals cannot be completed at the weekend, organizers said the tournament will be extended until Monday.

The start of the first women's semi-final was delayed briefly by rain, but was played without interruption.

Seles broke Martinez in the opening game of the match, and although Martinez was able to apply some pressure, she was never able to break back.

That was all the more surprising given Seles' struggle with her serve, which is well below her usual 90 mph range and down in the 60-70 mph area.

"The amount of terms that my shoulder has taken the last three or four weeks has been a lot," she said. "I need to get back my 90 serves to play against the top players."

Martinez didn't take advantage of Seles' weak first serve, standing far behind the baseline to receive. But her tactic of slicing a lot of backhands to Seles' forehand worked well.

"I think I was pushing a lot of balls back," Seles said.

"I had a very difficult time with the wind and she would sometimes have this slice that would have some weird stuff on it and sometimes she would give me a clean slice."

"She was hitting it long and short and I had a very hard time getting my timing."

Whatever Martinez tried, however, was not enough.

"I played some good shots, but she always gets one ball over the net, one ball more over the net," Martinez said.

In the second set, Seles went up 2-1 with a break in the third, and although Martinez fought off

six break points in the seventh game to hold, she was again unable to break back and get on terms.

Seles ended the match in style, with a one-handed forehand volley winner.

"It was a great way to end it," Seles said.

Martinez, who has now lost all nine of her matches against Seles, at least went away happier from this semi-final loss.

"Finally, I could play my own game against Monica," she said. "Before, I couldn't even play, so today it was good."

"I just have to take my chances when I have them. When I have a breakpoint, try to make it instead of rushing or making a bad mistake."

"In that game that she broke me in the second set, the first game that she broke me, I have 40-love up. You cannot permit those mistakes."

Seles said she wouldn't start thinking about her strategy for Sunday's final until her opponent had been decided.

She has never played Hingis, but her long rivalry with Graf includes last year's U.S. Open final, which the German won in three sets.

"If I play Steffi in the final like we played last year, it is hard to repeat that," Seles said. "If I play Martina, I have never played her, so I don't know what to expect."

Graf, who lost to Hingis at the Italian Open in May but who avenged that defeat with a victory at Wimbledon, is looking for a third Grand Slam singles title of the year after triumphing at both the French Open and Wimbledon.

Sugar Says No

LONDON (AFP) - Spurs chairman Alan Sugar on Saturday denied reports that he has settled his ongoing dispute with former England boss Terry Venables.

Sugar issued a statement to counter newspaper reports which claimed an out-of-court settlement had been reached in Sugar's libel action arising from Venables' autobiography.

The Spurs supremo said: "It is true that there have been recent discussions between lawyers. But no settlement has been reached."

"Clifford Chance, the lawyers representing Terry Venables, specifically requested last week that any discussions to date be kept strictly confidential."

Sugar said it appeared that Clifford Chance were unable to control their client in the wake of "the misleading and inaccurate statements" allegedly issued by Venables' associates to the press.

Torrance's Lead

CRANS-SUR-SIERRE, SWITZERLAND (AP) - Sam Torrance fired an 8-under-par 63 Friday to go six strokes ahead of Paul Broadhurst after the second round of the European Masters.

The Scottish golfer's 128 for the first two rounds put him 14 under par. Broadhurst, who shot a 64 in the first round, came back with a 70 on Friday.

Tied for third at 135 were Lee Westwood of England and Olle Nordberg of Sweden. Nordberg had a 69 in the second round and Westwood a 70.

Russia Destroys Finland

OTTAWA (AFP) - A less-than-inspiring, but nevertheless convincing, 5-0 win over Finland late Friday moved Russia into semi-final play with the United States in the World Cup of ice hockey.

The Americans and Russians were to meet in Ottawa on Sunday night and it would appear from Friday's play that the only danger to the Americans could well be over-confidence.

While Russia dominated every facet of the game, they lacked spark and were at best workman-like. Finland made only the occasional dangerous foray into the Russian zone, but they were few and far between.

Sports Highlights



MANCHESTER, ENGLAND: Chris Boardman raises his arms in jubilation after smashing the World One Hour record by over one kilometer at the Manchester Velodrome September 6, the previous record, dating back to 1994, was held by Tony Rominger from Switzerland. (AFP Photo)

De Ferran and Honda Move to Walker Racing for 1997

MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA (AP) - Gil de Ferran will replace Robby Gordon as driver of Derrick Walker's Indycars, which will be powered by Honda engines in 1997.

The announcement was made Friday at Laguna Seca Raceway, the site of Sunday's season-ending Bank of America 300.

De Ferran, from Brazil, has driven the past two seasons for Jim Hall, who will retire as a team-owner after Sunday's race. Robby Gordon, who has driven for Walker the past two seasons, recently announced he will leave the PPG Series next season to race for Felix Sabates in the Winston Cup Stock Car Series.

Walker's team has had a mediocre season since Gordon finished third in the season-opener at Homestead, Florida. His best finish since was eighth last month in the 500-mile race at Michigan.

De Ferran, 28, was the 1995 Indycar rookie of the year. He has two career victories, including last year's race in Monterey and the Cleveland race in July.

Gordon's two victories with Walker came last season at Phoenix and Detroit.

Honda, which has decided to stick with its current lineup of six cars for next season, also moves from Hall's team to Walker racing.

Walker said he will continue with Reynard Chassis and Goodyear Tires next season and that both of the team's major sponsors, Valvoline and Cummins Diesel engines, have renewed their contracts for three guaranteed years plus one option year.

Edwards Is a No-Show

MILAN, ITALY (AP) - Jonathan Edwards, world record-holder in the triple jump, will skip Monday's track meet in Sarajevo - even though organizers have used his name to promote the event.

American sprinter Dennis Mitchell also is staying away from the Sarajevo meet, but double Olympic gold medalist Michael Johnson is leaning towards going, according to his manager.

"I think right now he's inclined to go," Brad Hunt said Friday night. "Michael wanted to sleep on it and will make a decision in the morning."

Edwards, here for Saturday's IAAF Grand Prix finals, said that due to a prior commitment he never agreed to participate in the solidarity for Sarajevo meet, the first major sports event to take place in the city since the war ended in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"I've always stated in principle I'd like to go to Sarajevo, but until three weeks ago there wasn't a triple jump (scheduled)," Edwards said Friday. "Since April I've had an agreement with one of my sponsors to make an appearance Sept. 9."

An IAAF press release Aug. 30 touted a match-up between Edwards and Olympic champion Kenny Harrison in the triple jump, calling Edwards "a big supporter of the Sarajevo initiative."

The release - entitled "Jonathan Edwards appeals to world's stars: Join Me in Sarajevo" - also quotes an article in the Italian sports daily Corriere Dello Sport which has Edwards encouraging others to participate.

But the British athlete said Friday that he was never approached directly by the IAAF.



TEHRAN: 110,000 football fans watch Esteghal soccer club from Tehran outscoring Nowbahar from Uzbekistan 3-0 here at Azadi Stadium September 6. Esteghal of Tehran was cleared to the next round of the Asian Clubs Cup Winners Cup. (Photo by Abdi)

U.S. Slaps China with \$19m in Punitive Trade Charges

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States Friday slapped \$19 million in punitive charges on China, accusing Beijing of having illegally transshipped apparel through third countries to circumvent U.S. import quotas.

The sanctions, announced here by acting U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Charlene Barshefsky, will be applied to China's 1996 quota allowance in textiles and apparel.

"The message of today's action is clear and straightforward," Barshefsky said.

"We must demand that countries fulfill their trade agreement obligations and if they do not we will take action to enforce our agreements."

The United States alleged that Chinese transshipment practices violate a 1994 bilateral accord on trade in textiles and apparel.

The measures announced Friday, which the USTR said are being brought because of repeated violations by Chinese firms, mark the third time under the 1994 agreement that Washington has imposed charges in response to transshipment infractions.

In total, according to the government, some \$80 million in charges have been leveled on Beijing.

A statement from the USTR said evidence gathered by the U.S. customs service "demonstrates that China worked aggressively to circumvent the quotas under the 1994 agreement."

The Clinton administration contends that more than \$2 million Chinese-manufactured garments have been transshipped to the United States through seven countries, including Mongolia, Hong Kong, Fiji and Turkey.

The USTR statement said such items as cotton shorts, sewing thread, jogging suits and apparel products had entered the United States falsely identified as having been made in a third country.

It added that for the year ending in June 1996 China had fallen from the largest supplier of tex-

tiles and apparel to the United States to third place, after Mexico and Canada.

Total Chinese imports as of last June were valued at \$4.2 billion.

Sumitomo Trust Units Order 52 Aircraft

TOKYO (AFP) - A unit of Sumitomo Trust and Banking Co. Ltd. and the bank's joint venture with Singapore Airlines Ltd. have ordered 52 commercial aircraft from Boeing Co. of the United States and Airbus Industrie of France for leasing, a spokesman said Friday.

The total orders are worth about \$4.2 billion, the spokesman for Sumitomo Trust, an Osaka-based major trust bank, said.

The Japanese Trust Bank's wholly-owned U.S. unit, Boulton Aviation Services Inc., and

Singapore aircraft leasing enterprises, a 50-50 joint venture with Singapore Airlines Ltd., will purchase the aircraft, he said.

Orders for 12 Boeing B737 aircraft were placed by Boulton Aviation, while orders for a further 16 Boeing B777, 16 Airbus A320 and eight Airbus A321 were placed by Singapore aircraft leasing, the spokesman said.

The purchase will be not financed by Sumitomo Trust, but by other Japanese and foreign banks.

Dinar Stabilizes as Calm Returns to Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AFP) - The volatile Iraqi dinar, buffeted by U.N. sanctions and U.S. missile strikes, stabilized in Baghdad on Friday where it traded for 1,220 to the dollar, money changers said.

The dinar recovered sharply Thursday, where it traded for 1,200 dinars to the dollar on the free market after having plunged to 1,500 dinars the night before following two U.S. missile strikes on Tuesday and Wednesday.

"The dollar opened at 1,270 then the dinar strengthened. It could still improve again today" and higher demand, a money changer said.

Prices of basic food items fell back down to levels before the

crisis with Washington.

"Sugar is selling for 650 dinars a kilogram, rice for 600 dinars and flour for 500," said a merchant who expected prices to fall further in the next few days.

On Wednesday, prices shot up after Iraqis rushed to stock up on food amid fears of a prolonged crisis with Washington and the U.N. decision to delay implementing the "oil-for-food" deal signed in May.

Iraqis were hoping to see the benefit of the oil deal in September, their first relief from the sanctions since they were imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.



LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM: Frantic trading on the floor of the International Petroleum Exchange, Sept. 3, as crude oil prices flared up after the U.S. launched missile attacks on Iraq to punish Baghdad for its military incursion into the Kurdish "Safe Haven" in the north of the country. (AFP Photo)

Washington, Ankara Plan Wide-Ranging Talks

WASHINGTON (AP) - The United States and Turkey will open discussions next week about the damage the Turkish economy has suffered as a result of international economic sanctions against neighboring Iraq.

State Department Spokesman Glyn Davies offered no hint that the United States is prepared to assist Turkey. He said the discussions also will focus on Turkey's attempts to deal with separatist rebels and on the U.S.-led effort to help protect Iraqi Kurds, using Turkish military facilities.

The talks are being held at the suggestion of Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, who sent letters this week to President Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Ciller, a former prime minister, is in a party which is a pro-western junior partner in the government of Islamic Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan.

Preliminary discussions will be held early next week in Ankara with U.S. Ambassador Mark Grossman, Davies said.

Ciller told the BBC she believes the West should compensate Turkey for losses since the Persian Gulf war.

She drew a parallel to the U.S.-led international effort to aid Mexico after the devaluation of the Mexican peso in 1994.

"Billions of dollars were given to Mexico. All we want is financial compensation for some of our losses," Ciller was quoted as saying.

S. Korea's Shipbuilding Industry Sees Steady Recovery

SEOUL (AFP) - Shipbuilding orders landed by South Korea declined 29 percent year-on-year to 2.7 million gross tons in the first eight months of 1996, but showed signs of an upturn from June, industry sources said Friday.

The eight-month figure compared with 3.8 million tons received in the same period last year, the Korea Shipbuilders Association (KSA) said.

South Korea's shipbuilding slump began in the fourth quarter last year and was swayed by a lower-price push by Japanese rivals.

During the first eight months of 1996, the basket of OPEC's seven crudes averaged around \$18.5, nearly two dollars higher than in 1995.

Prices are expected to stay above \$18 until the end of 1996 as Iraq is unlikely to resume crude exports in the near future following its offensive against Kurds and retaliatory U.S. missile attacks.

Prices have remained firm this year mainly because of strong demand caused by a sharp decline in the crude inventories in industrial countries.

Oil exports provide more than two-thirds of the PGCC's total income and around 35 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). This made the economies of the 15-year-old alliance highly vulnerable to price fluctuations.

When prices increased by around \$1.3 to \$16.8 in 1995, the PGCC's GDP grew by nearly

U.S. officials said the bailout of Mexico two years ago did not involve grants but loans, much of which Mexico has already repaid.

Ciller said Turkey's losses since the Persian Gulf war were \$27 billion. Davies left open the question of whether the United States has a plan to assist the Turkish economy.

"We want to hear what the Turks have to say," Davies said. The two sides also will review operation provide comfort, under

which the United States and other countries, using Turkish military assets, protect Iraqi Kurds and provide them with humanitarian assistance.

France Launches Maastricht Offensive



JUPPE

PARIS (AFP) - France launched a hard-hitting public relations campaign on Friday to convince sceptical markets and French voters that they will be on the road to a single currency, prosperity and tax cuts from next year.

The twin pillars of the offensive were tax reforms and a new five-year plan to cut state spending.

Finance Minister Jean Arthuis insisted that the economy would grow as planned by 1.3 percent this year and that deficit targets would be met.

The budget for next year was based "prudently" on growth of 2.3 percent.

Arthuis made the statements at a press conference following the announcement of tax cuts by Prime Minister Alain Juppe late on Thursday.

The cuts are intended to resuscitate the economy and show the electorate that restrictive policies to prepare for a single currency will bear fruit from next year, 18 months before legislative elections.

Persian Gulf Economies Set to Perform Better in 1996

ABU DHABI (AFP) - The economies of six Persian Gulf Arab oil producers are set to perform better in 1996 due to a surge in crude prices and higher expenditure by some members, bankers said Friday.

The oil sector in the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC), which controls around 45 percent of the global crude reserves, is projected to grow by at least eight percent in 1996 while other sectors are poised for expansion.

"The PGCC economies have already overshot growth rates this year compared with the same period of last year," an Abu Dhabi-based banker said.

"This is because the oil sector has sharply grown as crude prices have largely improved and some governments were tempted to spend more. Expectations are that there will be higher growth rates during 1996."

The five-year tax-cutting plan aimed to strangle a threatening attack on the franc by convincing international investors that France can cut deficits as planned next year and keep borrowing within the Maastricht limits permanently beyond 1997.

The franc was steady in early trading on Friday because investors appeared satisfied that the cuts in overall personal taxation would be balanced by selective increases.

But an opinion poll showed that 83 percent of voters want a switch away from the so-called "strong franc" policies and some politicians in parties supporting the government said that Juppe should have cut taxes by more than the promised gross figure of 25 billion francs (\$5 billion) next year.

The opposition Socialists said that this figure, or a net figure of 18 billion francs, was insignificant compared to tax increases of 120 billion francs last year and were unfair.

Juppe counter-attacked on Friday saying that the amount of income tax paid by the low would fall over five years by 47 percent while tax paid by those in the top tax bracket would fall by 17 percent.

Over five years personal taxes are to be cut by 75 billion francs.

Arthuis prepared the way for the forthcoming presentation of the budget for 1997 by insisting that the economy would grow by 1.3 percent this year despite a decline of 0.4 percent in the second quarter.

The public deficit would be cut to 288 billion francs, or four percent of gross domestic product in 1996, he assured.

Kuala Lumpur - The Malaysian government was considering new incentives to boost the capital and private debt securities market, prime minister and finance minister Anwar Birch said Thursday.

The move is part of a plan to develop Kuala Lumpur into a regional financial center by 2000, Anwar said when launching Malaysian Rating Corporation, the second rating agency in Malaysia.

"We need to develop the financial sector so that it plays a catalytic role in boosting the capital and private debt securities market," Anwar said.

He did not give details of the incentives being considered. Malaysia's financial system needed to offer better options, he said. This included financing various types of bonds and equities as an alternative to traditional borrowing and financial institutions.

The government was continuing to monitor in detail developments in the capital market.

Economic Digest

MANILA - Flag carrier Philippine Airlines announced Thursday it will start on Oct. 1 a direct flight from Honolulu, Hawaii, to Laoag, capital of the province of Ilocos Norte in the northern Philippines.

The airline said the service, dubbed the Ilocos Express, will provide the fastest travel from Hawaii to the Ilocos region and other northern Philippine cities and provinces.

The new service is tailor-made for the big Filipino community in Hawaii, estimated at around 168,000, who travel regularly to the Philippines for business and pleasure.

SINGAPORE - A Singapore company controlled by Indonesia's Pribadi Family plans to invest at least \$255 million in a hotel-office-apartment complex in Jakarta.

Econ International Ltd. plans to build the project on a 5.8 hectare (14.3 acre) site near the Indonesian capital's Chinatown, the Straits Times newspaper reported.

Plans call for 250 small, three- and four-story retail buildings and a 50,000-square-meter shopping center in the \$60 million first phase. Econ executive director Geoffrey Yoo told the newspaper.

Subsequent phases would include a 300-room hotel, 50,000 square meters of office space and 600 apartments.

Econ was taken over last year by Yenville Pte. Ltd., a company owned by consortium of Indonesian businessmen including Andy and Wilson Pribadi.

MANILA - The Philippine year-on-year inflation rate fell a full percentage point to 7.9 percent in August, reflecting more stable commodity prices.

In the year-earlier period, agricultural shortages and distribution problems caused prices of basic goods to rise rapidly.

The inflation figure puts the government on track toward meeting its goal of an average inflation rate of 7.5 percent to 8.5 percent for 1996.

Analysts said the August inflation rate was well within expectations, but aired concerns that ongoing attacks by the United States on Iraq, if prolonged, may cause inflationary pressures that would derail the inflation targets.

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The move is part of a plan to develop Kuala Lumpur into a regional financial center by 2000, Anwar said when launching Malaysian Rating Corporation, the second rating agency in Malaysia.

"We need to develop the financial sector so that it plays a catalytic role in boosting the capital and private debt securities market," Anwar said.

He did not give details of the incentives being considered. Malaysia's financial system needed to offer better options, he said. This included financing various types of bonds and equities as an alternative to traditional borrowing and financial institutions.

The government was continuing to monitor in detail developments in the capital market.

Today in History

1545 - Britain's Earl of Hertford leads punitive raid into Scotland.

1760 - Wisconsin in north America comes under English control after being French territory.

1830 - Russia takes Warsaw after two-day battle, and Polish revolt collapses.

1855 - Crimean war ends.

1915 - Nicholas Nicolaievich is relieved of his army command in Russia and Tsar Nicholas II takes over personally.

1926 - Germany is admitted to League of Nations.

1934 - Fire aboard luxury liner Morro Castle off New Jersey coast takes 134 lives.

1943 - Allied Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower announces Italy's unconditional surrender in World War II.

1954 - Southeast Asia defense treaty and Pacific charter is signed in Manila by Britain, France, United States, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Thailand and the Philippines.

1986 - Bomb explodes in ground-floor post office of Paris city hall, killing at least one person and injuring undetermined number of others.

1987 - Rescue workers dig into mudslide that buried cars and buses, killing at least 150 people on lengthy stretch of highway at Maracay, Venezuela.

1988 - About one million democracy demonstrators paralyze Burma's capital of Rangoon.

1989 - Colombia's army reports arrest of pilot who it says worked for reputed leader of Medellin drug cartel.

1991 - Macedonians vote to become the third of six Yugoslav republics to choose independence.

Cancer Prevention Boils Down to a Few Basic Rules

By Dr. Alan Bruckheim

QUESTION: The headline read: "Eat Healthy and Prevent Cancer." Sounds great, but is this at all possible? Each day there is another recommendation. How can you keep up, much less believe them all? What's the scoop here, Doc? You have to be the one to know.

ANSWER: Health and disease prevention are topics most Americans seem to be very interested in. The news media are just trying to keep up with the latest developments published each week in medical journals; it is hard to report on all of this material and separate statistics and recommendations that apply only to a few cases from those more generally applicable.

Most experts do agree that people should reduce the percentage of calories obtained from fats in their diet. Reducing the amount by 30 percent may provide protection from breast, colon, ovarian and endometrial cancer. Some experts would like to see that percentage pushed even lower, to about 20 percent of total caloric intake. This could reduce the risk of breast and colon cancer by as much as 80 percent, they say. To accomplish this, people are going to have to learn the fat content of the foods in their diet and select those with the lowest values.

Fiber is another big item in the news these days. It may decrease the chances of colon cancer by increasing the bulk of stools, diluting the concentrations of waste chemicals in the stool that could provoke a cancer. Fiber is present in cereals, whole grain breads, fruits and vegetables.

Calcium is also recommended, not only as a measure to prevent osteoporosis, but also to reduce the chances of colon cancer. De-

pending upon age and sex, daily intake of between 1,000 and 1,500 milligrams is recommended.

If cancer prevention is really your goal, there are two other items to be mentioned, although they do not deal specifically with food. They are exercise and smoking. Active folks have a lower risk of both breast and colon cancer. And tobacco use can be linked to about 30 percent of all cancer deaths.

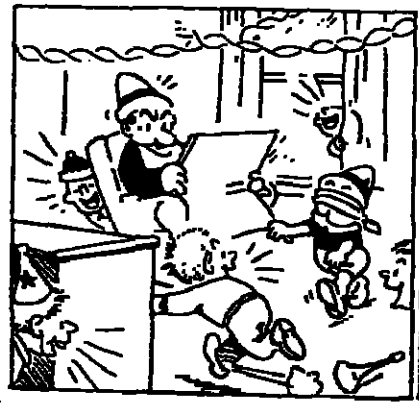
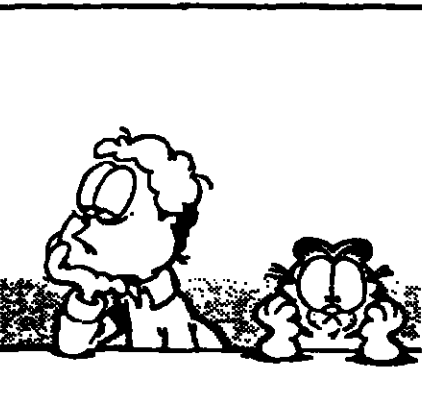
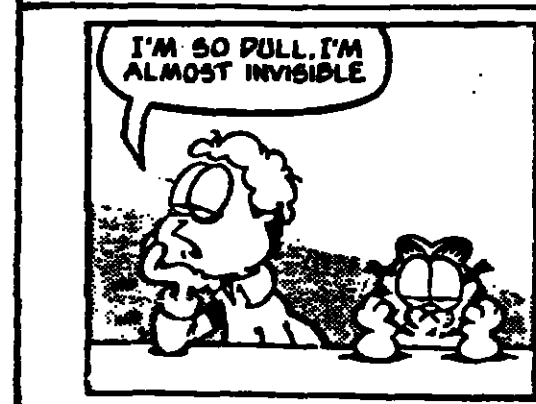
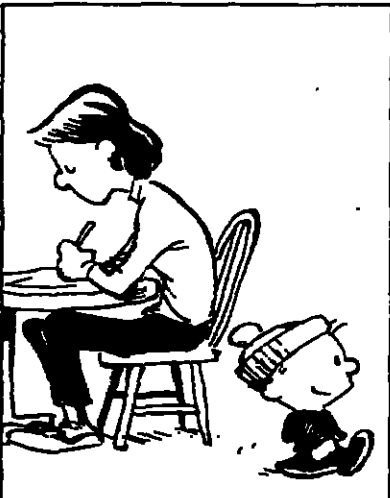
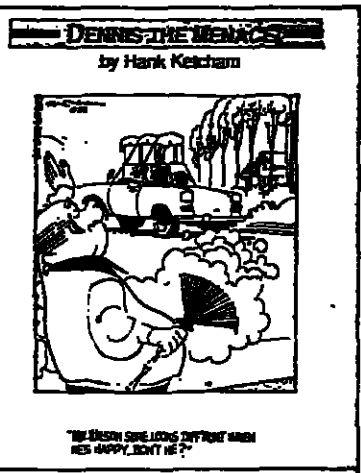
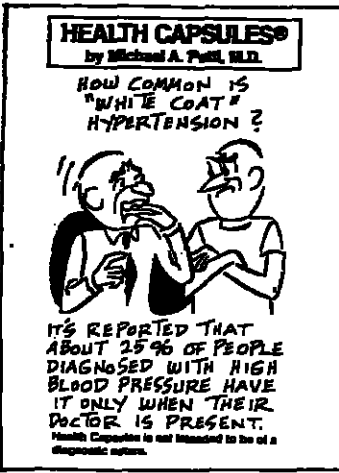
In summary, if you want to maximize cancer prevention in your lifestyle, choose foods low in fat and high in fiber, keep your weight down, exercise regularly and stay away from tobacco.

ACROSS MY DESK: In response to an invitation extended to me by Dr. Alan J. Cropp and Dr. Robert De Marco of Second Wind, a respiratory rehabilitation program in Boardman, Ohio, I joined in an adventure that has a wonderful message for all who are afflicted by disabling lung disease.

I was to join the group for an outing, a day trip to a baseball game in Cleveland. I boarded the bus for the short trip to the ballpark along with 30 patients and the support staff of Second Wind, consisting of nurses and respiratory technicians. We were followed by a van, supplied by Boardman Medical Supplies, loaded with wheelchairs, oxygen and anything else that might be required. Almost everyone had a personal oxygen supply, and treatments with inhalators were administered en route.

Outside the stadium, we were met by a representative of the Cleveland Indians and the patients were wheeled or walked directly to the gates and then their

See Page 13



CORNUCOPIA

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ULARR
MERFA
MARSID
NERCRO

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Ellen Argenson



WHAT THE LAWYERS FOLLOWED TO KEEP IN SHAPE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: FRIAR JEWEL BEFALL KERNEL
Answer: Where a movie actor spends a lot of his time — IN REEL LIFE

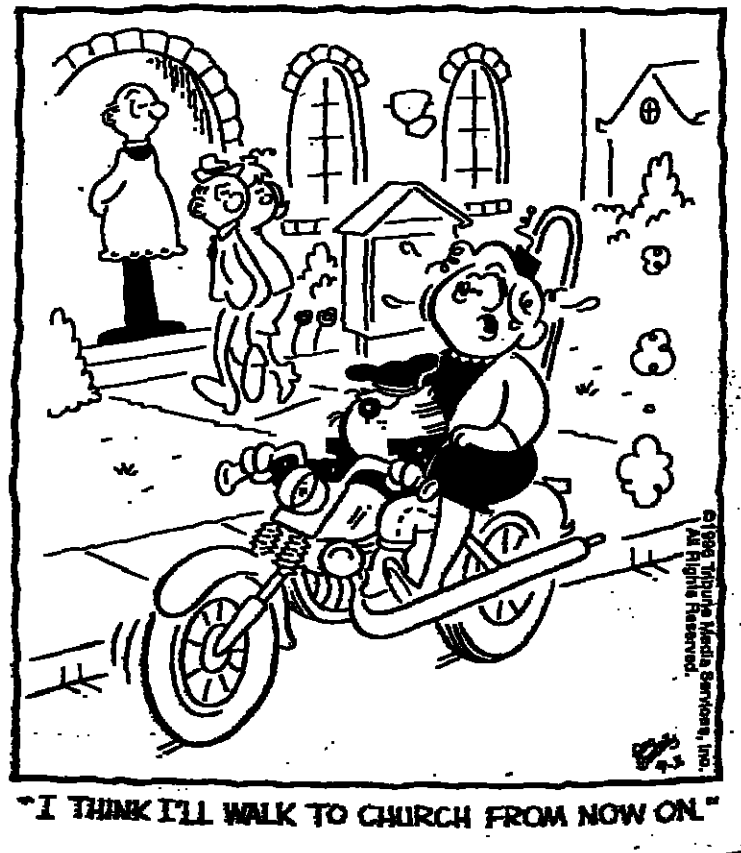
ONOSMA ERECTA S.S.

Family: Boraginaceae



Approximately 15 species of the genus *Onosma* flourish in Greece. They are annual or perennial plants covered with stiff bristles. Leaves linear, lanceolate. Flowers in yellow, white or reddish color with tubular corolla and calyx with 5 linear lobes. The *Onosma erecta* is a perennial plant with numerous branches 10-25cm high and yellow flowers. It is one of the many plants endemic to Greece. It frequents rocky localities of the mountain zone. Flowers May-July.

HEATHCLIFF



مكة في الأجل

IRAN

FEATURE NEWS

Smoking During Pregnancy Causes Attention Deficit Disorder in Children

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Women who smoke while pregnant run a greater risk of having a child who suffers from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), according to a study in the September issue of the American Journal of Psychiatry.

The study - conducted at Massachusetts General Hospital - of 140 ADHD-suffering boys 6-17 years old and normal boys of the same age found a causal link between smoking during pregnancy and ADHD.

"If confirmed, these findings will stress the importance of programs aimed at smoking prevention in nonsmoking women and smoking cessation in smoking

women of childbearing age," the study says.

The link between maternal smoking and ADHD was present irrespective of socioeconomic status, parental IQ, and parental ADHD status.

The journal's September issue is devoted to ADHD, which causes attention deficit, impulsivity and difficulty with motor activity in six to nine percent of U.S. schoolchildren, according to the Archives of General Psychiatry. The study did not quantify the risk, but said that nicotine affects the dopaminergic system, whose function is to regulate dopamine, a chemical important to the nervous system.

French Open First Judicial Probe for Asbestos Cancer

PARIS (AFP) - French prosecutors opened a penal investigation on earlier following a complaint from a cancer victim who blames his condition on exposure to asbestos.

The investigation, against persons unknown for involuntary wounding, is the first in France and the first since the government announced a total ban on asbestos on July 3.

The move is the result of a complaint lodged by 66-year-old pensioner Jean Della Torre, suffering since 1994 from a cancer of the pleura, which he says he contracted 35 years ago from contact with asbestos when he was working as an electrician.

But prosecutors refused to act

on a complaint by an Asbestos Victims' Defense Committee against industrialists, scientists and the government which said they knew of the risks for people coming into contact with asbestos fibers of cancers of the lung and the pleura, fibrosis and asbestosis, but did nothing.

Asbestos has been known to be cancer-causing since the 1950s and could cause some 10,000 deaths a year by 2020, according to a scientific report which added there would be at least 2,000 deaths in France in 1996. Professions at risk are electricians, central heating installers, cable-layers and plumbers from working close to surfaces flocked with asbestos which was used as a fireproof insulator.

U.S. Government Reveals New Fat Substitute

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced recently it has developed a non-caloric fat substitute that can be used in baked goods, chocolates and hamburgers.

The new fat substitute, called Z-Trim, is made of natural by-products such as soybeans, peas, rice, as well as corn and wheat bran which are pulverized and added to a variety of foods.

"A consumer who normally eats 3,500 calories a day could cut as many as 700 calories by eating the same kinds of food in the same volume (by) adding about a half an ounce of Z-Trim to replace fat," Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said in a statement.

In a research test, panelists

found brownies made with Z-Trim just as tasty as the chocolate cakes made with real fat, the statement said.

In January the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a fat substitute named Olestra but that substance used in fried snack foods can cause intestinal cramps.

"Since Z-Trim is made from ... natural dietary fibers, eating ordinary amounts of it will not upset the digestive system," Glickman said.

According to the Federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, one in three Americans is obese, meaning that 58 million Americans now weigh 20 percent more than their normal weight.

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Science and Technology

Hot Stuff

It is now possible to analyze the entire genetic make-up of some living organisms. Doing this for one of the world's odder creatures may cast light on the ancestors of modern life.

In the beginning was the word. And the word was "thermophile". Hidden away in the earth's hot springs and fumaroles lurk bizarre micro-organisms that love the heat; many, indeed, would freeze to death if they were exposed to something as cold as a summer's day in Maryland. Studying them, though, may reveal what the ancestor of all existing life was like. And this summer, in a laboratory in Maryland, the genetic make-up of one has, for the first time, been entirely unraveled.

The laboratory that did it is the Institute for Genomic Research, in Rockville, which is presided over by Craig Venter. Last year, Dr. Venter perfected a technique known as "shotgun sequencing" that enormously speeds up the process of analyzing an organism's DNA. The method works by shredding a number of copies of a chromosome (in essence, a single molecule of DNA that carries many genes) by forcing them through a tiny hole. Each of the resulting pieces is a string of a few hundred of the genetic "letters" in which the plans of the organism's proteins are encoded. Pieces of DNA this short can be read by machinery that works out the order of the letters.

To find out what the original message said, the pieces then have to be reassembled. This is done with computers. Since the various copies of the chromosome are broken up at random, the pieces from different copies will overlap. With enough pieces, enough computing power, and suitable software, the overlaps can be matched and the sequence of the whole chromosome recreated. Recently, Dr. Venter and his colleagues applied this approach to a thermophile called *Methanococcus jannaschii*. To do it, they had to stitch some 37,000 DNA fragments back together. This week the results of their labors have been published in Science.

In one sense, this is becoming routine. *Methanococcus* is the third living organism to have its genome (all of its DNA) fully sequenced, and numerous viruses have been decoded as well. But the new analysis still marks a first of some significance.

Like Caesar's Gaul, life is divided into three parts. The most familiar is the eukaryotes, a group that includes animals, plants and fungi, as well as a lot of single-celled creatures and some oddities called slime molds. Then there are the bacteria—also familiar, at least in their disease-causing guises. Eukaryotes and bacteria have many differences, but the biggest is that eukaryotes have multiple chromosomes wrapped up in a nucleus. In a bacterium, the chromosome is a single circular molecule tacked on to the organism's cell wall.

The third group of living things is the archaea. Recognized only 19 years ago, archaea were originally mistaken for bacteria. But their biochemistry is noticeably unbacterial, and it is clear that the two groups went their separate evolutionary ways many hundreds of millions of years ago. Using Dr. Venter's technique, two bacteria have yielded full genetic sequences to the biologists' databases: older techniques will soon do the same for a species of yeast—a eukaryote. And *Methanococcus* is the first archaeon to have its genome sequenced.

The institute's researchers have identified 1,738 genes in *Methanococcus* (by comparison, humans are reckoned to have 75,000). They have, however, been able to guess at the functions of only 38% of

them. Such guesses are usually made by comparing the sequence of an unknown gene with the sequences of genes from other organisms that have known function.

The details of the analysis have helped confirm a long-held suspicion—that archaea are less closely related to bacteria (which they superficially resemble) than to the eukaryotes. The archaean genes that control the transcription and translation of DNA into protein, for example, are more like those in eukaryotes than in bacteria. The ancestor of the eukaryotes, then, probably resembled an archaeon.

As the mirror of such an ancestor, *Methanococcus* is curious in several ways. Most living organisms rely—either directly or indirectly—on sunlight for their energy. *Methanococcus*, by contrast, gets its energy by reacting hydrogen and carbon dioxide together to form methane and water. The hot springs that it frequents (and from which the hydrogen and the carbon dioxide spew) are not ones that might feed some fashionable spa. They are "white smokers", gushers of superheated water found at the bottom of the ocean.

So *Methanococcus* likes it hot.

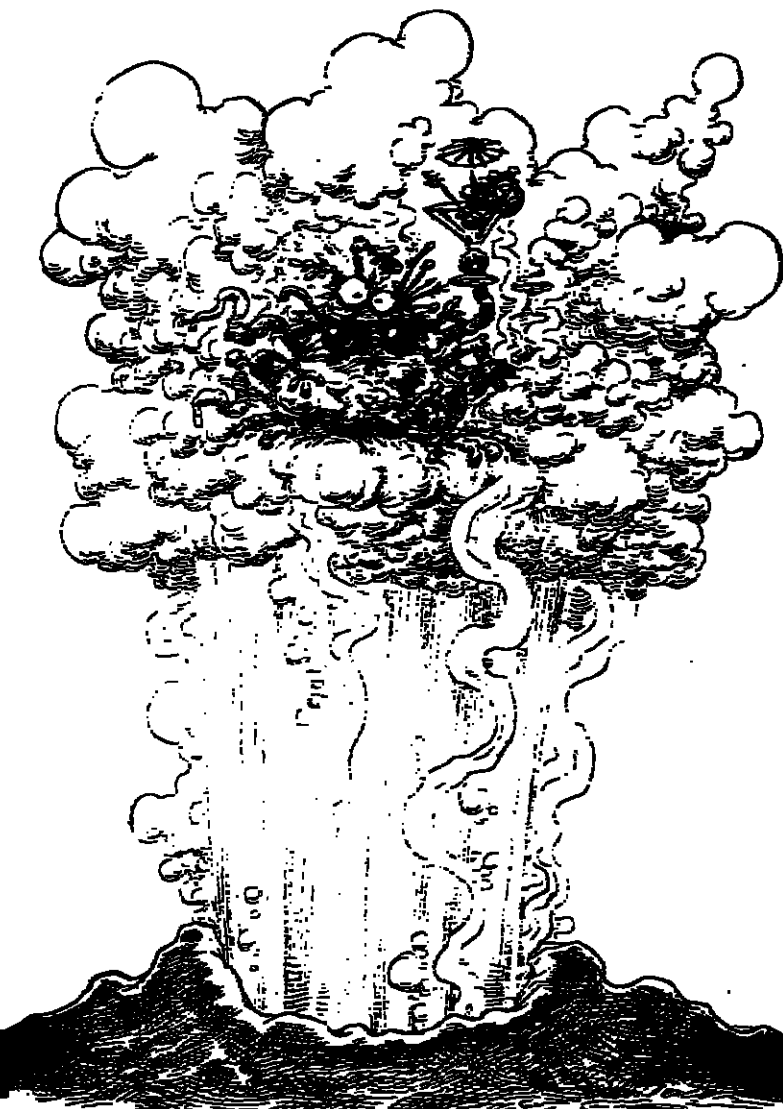
Its preferred temperature is 85 °C; it can tolerate as much as 94 °C. Such tastes might be thought freakish but, for archaea, they are not.

Many archaea are thermophiles. So are some bacteria. And a number of biologists think this is not an accident. They believe that the thermophilic archaea and the thermophilic bacteria may have had a heat-loving common ancestor. If true, this, plus the evidence that eukaryotes are probably descended from something like a modern archaeon, would mean that the common ancestor of all modern living creatures was a thermophile.

Working out how groups of organisms may have branched off the tree of life is tricky. The usual technique is to look at a molecule called 16S rRNA in two species; the more closely they are related, the more closely they are related. So far, data gathered this way support the idea of a thermophilic common ancestor.

Similar comparisons can also be made using protein molecules. But because few proteins are ubiquitous, it is often hard to assess how everything is related to everything else. But a few months ago, Russell Doolittle and his team at the University of California, San Diego, collated data from 57 proteins in a wide range of organisms. Their result broadly confirmed the relationships suggested by 16S rRNA data.

The most obvious explanation for why all life on earth might be descended from thermophiles is that the first living creatures were thermophilic. The early earth, after all, was quite a volcanic place, and the chemicals vomited from hot springs offer lots of possible ways in which creatures that do not use photosynthesis (the process that some bacteria and all plants use to generate energy from sunlight)



can still make a living. This could imply that the split between the archaea and the bacteria happened early in the history of life.

A bit of geological evidence

supports this view. Some carbon atoms weigh a twelfth more than others, and carbon compounds produced by photosynthesis are slightly poorer in the heavier at-

oms. The composition of some of the carbon in rocks 3.5 billion years old suggests photosynthesis had got going by then. There are even hints it had already started 3.8 billion years ago. Since the evidence from molecular biology suggests that the first photosynthetic bacteria were not thermophiles, this would push the most recent common ancestor a long way back indeed.

Dr. Doolittle thinks otherwise. Averaged over millions of years, proteins seem to change their composition at a reasonably constant rate. The differences between the proteins of two species, therefore, should give a good indication of how far back in time their last common ancestor existed. Dr. Doolittle's work suggests that the common ancestor of all modern life was alive a mere two billion years ago.

If this is correct, there is some explaining to do. Two billion years ago life had already existed on earth for a long time. At that stage in history the fossil evidence shows that there was a diverse ecosystem around, albeit one composed of pretty small organisms. So even if many early life forms

were thermophilic, there would be no particular reason to expect that all of modern life would be descended from thermophiles. It may, of course, have been

blind luck that of all things that were alive two billion years ago, only thermophiles have left descendants. But luck often needs the guiding hand of fate. Most groups of organisms that have died out in the past have done so in mass extinctions. Five large extinctions—and numerous smaller, but still significant ones—have occurred in the short period (about 560m years) since living things became large and fossils abundant. In one case, 96% of identifiable species disappeared in a geological eyeblink. There is little reason, therefore, to suppose that mass extinctions did not happen before abundant fossils could record them.

One likely cause of mass extinction is an asteroid colliding with the earth. Such a collision is widely believed to have done in the dinosaurs. Asteroid strikes generate a lot of heat; a big enough strike could probably boil the oceans. This would be bad news for life at a time when all living creatures inhabited the sea—unless, of course, any such creatures lived at the bottom of the sea and were well-adapted to survive intense heat. There is no proof that such an ocean-boiling collision ever happened. Nor is it likely, given how long ago the most recent common ancestor lived even on Dr. Doolittle's evidence, that any geological trace of such a collision would survive. But, as the ability to reach into the distant past by examining modern biological molecules shows, not all fossils are buried in the rocks. Some are found in the genes. Among other things, Dr. Venter's technique of whole-genome sequencing should allow the relationships between organisms to be disentangled and, just possibly, make it easier to discover what happened when. If the first word truly was "thermophile", shotgun sequencing may be the best way to prove it.

Courtesy of the Economist Magazine

World Health Body Launches Drive Against Epilepsy

THE HAGUE (AFP) — The World Health Organization launched earlier an international campaign to improve measures against epilepsy, the neurological disorder which affects some 40 million people and is characterized by fits.

The campaign was launched in conjunction with the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) at the league's second European congress here.

The primary aim is to combat the wrong ideas which both the public and medical professionals have of what Dutch campaigner and sufferer Hanneke de Boer called the "hidden disease" because of the embarrassment caused by the fits.

ILAE President Dr. Edward Reynolds of Britain said epilepsy had been neglected as a public health problem because of the fear and confusion it had aroused for centuries.

Reynolds said that knowledge of the disease was making rapid advances and 80 percent of newly diagnosed cases could now be treated, but society's attitude to sufferers must be changed through education.

Developing countries, where 85 percent of sufferers live, were particular targets for the campaign, Reynolds said.

Bucaram Declares All-Out War Against Alcohol

QUITO (AFP) — President Abdala Bucaram earlier declared an all-out "war on alcohol" and announced new measures limiting the availability of alcohol.

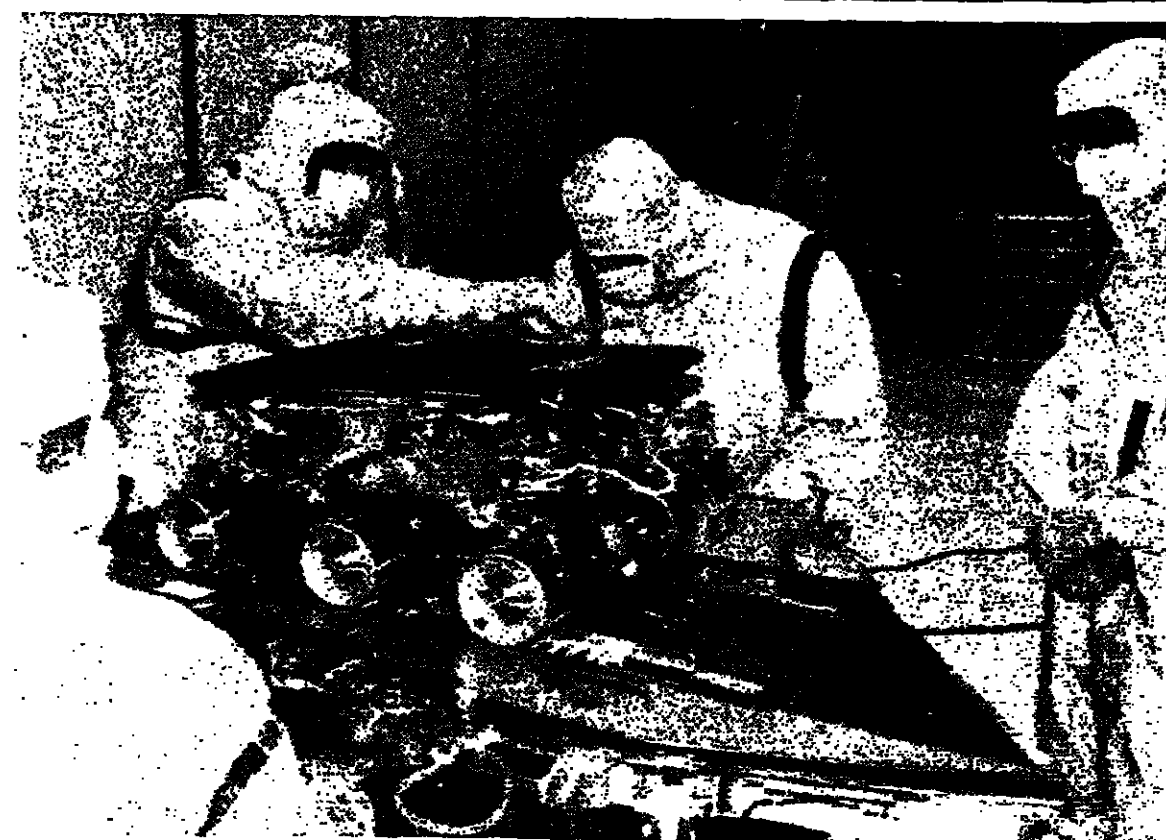
"Alcohol is a drug and fighting it is fighting drug addiction," Bucaram said.

The new populist president said that any restaurants or bars that serve alcohol after 8 p.m. would be closed down.

And he said discotheques could not serve alcohol after 2 a.m.

In addition, Bucaram announced alcohol would not be sold in stores on Sunday.

"We are going to fight a war to the death against alcohol consumption in Ecuador," he said.



KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES: The Mars Pathfinder's small rover is attached to one of the lander's petals early September at Kennedy Space Center's Spacecraft Assembly and Encapsulation Facility 2 by technicians in preparation for the planned early December launch for the seven-month journey to Mars. The lander's petals are deployed once it lands on Mars where the rover will gather data while being controlled from Earth.

(AFP Photo)

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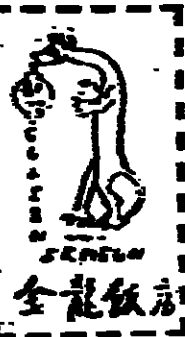
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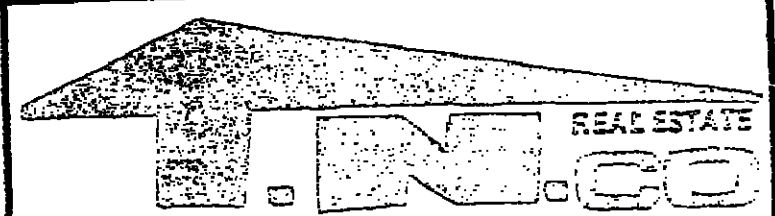
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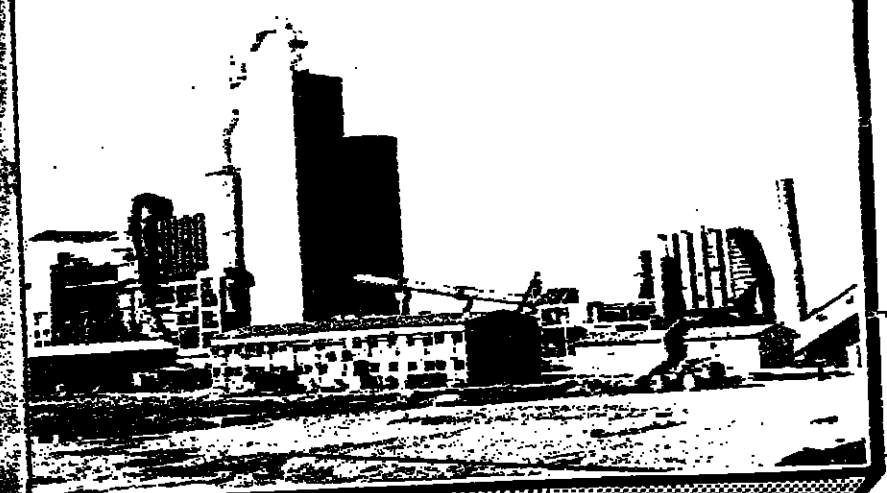
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Call for Private Museums Sparks Heated Debate in Land of Pharaohs

CAIRO (AFP) - A proposal by businessmen to set up private museums has triggered a heated debate in Egypt, with critics fearing a privatization of the Pharaohs' treasures. They warn it could lead to selling off the sphinx, the pyramids and even the Nile to the highest bidder.

"Antiquities belong to the nation and should remain under the control of the state, which alone can guarantee their protection," the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, Abdel Halim Nur el-din, told AFP.

Nur el-din brushed off any suggestion to privatize antiquities, acknowledging however that those behind the idea had in fact suggested that "ancient artifacts already on display remain under state ownership."

After a rash of nationalization in the aftermath of the 1952 Revolution which ousted the monarchy, Egypt launched a nationwide privatization campaign five years ago to sell some of its key industries.

Emboldened by such measures, businessmen began to propose the creation of private museums in tourist resorts which they control in Hurghada and Sharm el-Sheikh, on the Red Sea.

"We want to help the state with the burden of preserving our national heritage. The authorities don't have the necessary means to set up modern museums and this is where we could step in," said Amr Hussein Zaki.

Zaki, who spearheads plans to privatize Egypt's heritage, owns a

plot of land near the Red Sea where he hopes to set up a private museum to display some of the nation's treasures.

"We are suggesting that the government hands us the concession for antiquities in the museums which we will set up. In return, we will give them 40 percent of our profits," Zaki said.

He also stressed that entry fees to private museums would be fixed in dollars unlike state-run museums, where entrance fees are in Egyptian pounds. "The promotion of tourism demands that we go after tourists," he said.

"So what harm is there if Ramesses II is brought to the Red Sea? At least he won't have to suffer from pollution," Zaki said, in reference to a statue of one of ancient Egypt's best-known Pharaohs.

For Neemat Ahmad Fuad, author and professor at Cairo University, businessmen should build museums and donate them to the state "if they are really motivated by national feelings."

Known for her battles to protect Egypt's national heritage, she has won a legal battle to cancel an exhibition of Egyptian antiquities in Japan and the United States on the grounds of a lack of security.

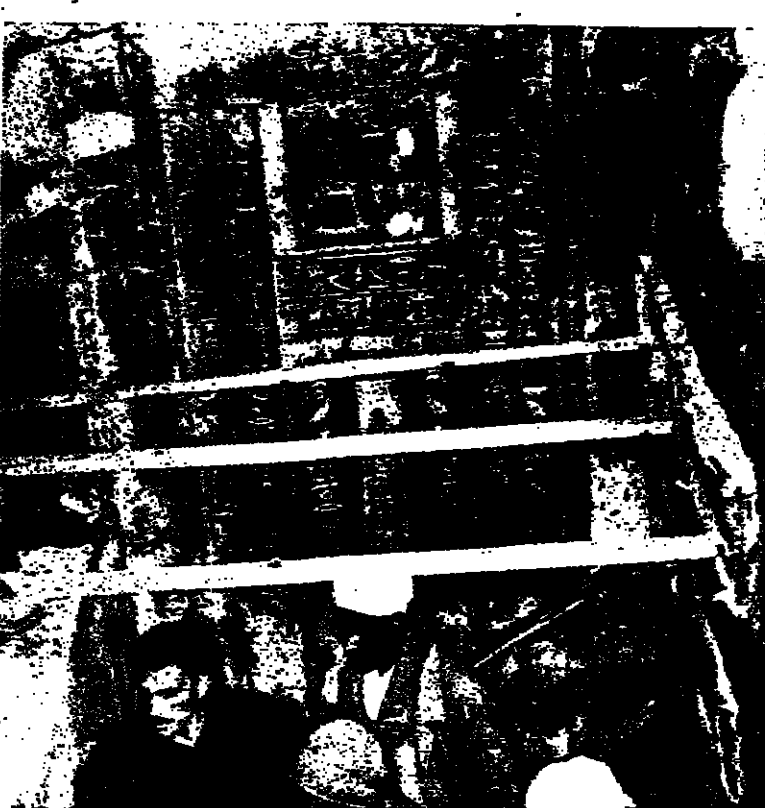
"I am convinced that if the sphinx and the pyramids were not so huge, they would have been on sale in American supermarkets, gift-wrapped and all," Fuad said.

She slammed the government, accusing it of squandering its income from archaeological sites. "The least they could do is protect

our history and give us some pride," Fuad said.

According to official statistics, 39,000 pieces of antiquities spanning several periods, including 4,000 monumental pieces, are kept in public basements or warehouses because of a lack of exhibition halls.

Egypt boasts 28 museums, all state-owned, which house antiquities that trace its history to nearly 4,000 years B.C.



GIZA, EGYPT: An Egyptian restorer shows workers in Giza how to restore the walls of a Pharaonic noble tomb named Kar which was uncovered by Czech archaeologists in Sakkarah Necropolis outside Cairo. (AFP Photo)

Moonies Eye South America as Next Stronghold

SEOUL (AFP) - The Unification Church, led by controversial billionaire Moon Sun-myung, is eyeing South America as its next stronghold, church officials here say.

"Moon has decided to settle permanently in a remote spread in the tri-border area of Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia," Yoon Kyong-Hwa, a Unification Church spokesman, told AFP.

Moon, a business magnate and

media mogul who claims to have several million followers -- better known as "Moonies" -- worldwide, has already embarked on his "last mission" called the South America project, the spokesman said.

The project, which got off the ground in the early 1990s, calls on followers worldwide to transfer "money and sweat" to Latin America, he said.

For the project, Moon, 76, has cast a long and elaborate commercial shadow in the region by snapping up sprawling landholdings, hotels and even newspapers in Argentina, Uruguay and other Latin American nations.

Moon, who claims to be the son of God, hopes to set up a settlement of foreigners and locals around his new hope ranch and build many "ideal" communities in other areas, Yoon said. "The reverend aims to turn this area into one of the world's major economic and cultural bases," he said, asking South Korean businessmen to hurry in and expand investment in Latin America.

"South America is the best place for South Korean investment," the spokesman said, comparing Moon's project with a spate of announcements by South Korean conglomerates for investment plans in the region.

Days before the departure of President Kim Young-Sam on September 2 on a 12-day Latin American swing, South Korea's giant Hyundai group announced a massive \$7.8 billion dollar investment package in Brazil, Peru and

Chile. "Moon sees the region as a place to build a paradise," the church spokesman said.

As part of his agricultural project, Moon has bought 8,250 hectares (20,337 acres) in Brazil. He is also seeking to acquire another 202,470 hectares (500,000 acres).

In May, Moon bought some 3,000 hectares (7,400 acres) in Argentina, prompting a court probe into the origin of his wealth.

The scope of Moon's project is becoming apparent as antipathy increases worldwide toward his religious and business activities.

In the mid-1980s, Moon, a Korean resident overseas, served a year in a U.S. prison for tax evasion.

In July, a Japanese Moonie was expelled from Russia after breaking laws requiring a valid passport and visa.

And in January, the church's mass wedding in Manila turned into a debacle when thousands of South Korean "grooms" were deported, leaving their Filipino "brides" behind.

Manila charged the wedding was a sordid ruse to import Filipino women into South Korea as slave laborers.

In November last year, the British government reaffirmed a ban on Moon entering Britain, a decision allegedly made against a background of reports on "the way in which young-vulnerable people have been alienated from their parents, of the very great misery that has caused."

Yaser Sahel Mfg. Company (Shirzadian Kolouchah) Was Inaugurated During the Government Week

Yaser Sahel Company is employing 50 persons of which 90 percent are from the families of martyrs and the disabled war veterans.

On the fourth day of the Government Week, the modern Yaser Sahel Company (Shirzadian Kolouchah) was inaugurated in the presence of engineers Doust-Hussein, deputy minister of Industries for industrial development and Akhondzadeh, director general of Industries of Gilan Province.

At the end of the ceremony, the Managing Director of Yaser Sahel Company (Shirzadian Kolouchah) Hajj Ali Shirzad spoke to our reporter about the objectives of establishment of the newly expanded company. He first paid tribute to the Supreme Leader of the Revolution and the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution particularly martyrs Rajae and Bahonar on the occasion of the Government Week.

Shirzad said it was his heartfelt desire to be able to serve the oppressed masses of the community by previous adding that by the previous arrangement and approval of the board of directors of YSC, the profits of the company

would be donated to patients suffering from thalassemia and kidney diseases, poor students under the care of Imam Khomeini's Relief Committee, the disabled, the orphans and families without a bread earner in keeping with the desires and dictates of the late Imam (R.A.) and the Supreme Ruler of the Islamic Revolution. Asked whether he had volunteered himself for the recent Majlis elections, Shirzad said he had volunteered as a candidate for the Fourth and Fifth term of the Ma-



jlis and will again volunteer himself for the Sixth term of the Majlis.

He said Yaser Sahel Company was employing 50 persons of which 90 percent are from the families of martyrs and the disabled war veterans who serve in all branches of the company up from board of directors down to a

simple laborers. "The second factory of YSC which is much more larger and modern and is equipped with fully automatic machinery for production of macaroni, will soon be commissioned," said Shirzad adding that by commissioning that branch of the company another group of the devotees of the Islamic Revolution would be hired by Yaser Sahel Company. Shirzad said the company employees, from the managing director down to the simple laborers in

the factory all are working in two shifts like brothers on equal footing and are seriously trying to enhance production according to the parameters prescribed by the Supreme Leader of the Revolution.

The factory is closely following discipline and its employees are really dedicated to their work.

Elsewhere the managing director of Yaser Sahel Co. said: "The company has been built in an area of 2,000 sq. m of which 700 sq. m is under construction and 600 mil-



Hajj Ali Shirzad, managing director of Yaser Sahel Co.

lion rials has been invested for purchase of fully automatic machinery for the two cookie production halls equipped with health systems, an advanced laboratory and a spacious warehouse."

Yaser Sahel Co. produces 150 thousand cookies (Kolouchah) per day which due to high quality ingredients and pure walnut is very much favored by the public.

"I would like to thank engineer Shojayee, the director general of Gilan Province who is an efficient administrator and who has always supported us," said Shirzad expressing a hope to receive a standard ratings for his products to be able to export them.

The managing director of YSC said the flour delivered to his fac-

tory was dearer in value than that sold in the open market.

"Let them all know that we are buying our flour at 48,000 rials per kilogram from the open mar-

ket whereas the price imposed on us by the cooperative company is 52,000 rials per kg. and so far we have received no quota for supply of flour from the government," Shirzad said.

He appealed to the director general of the Grain Organization of the Province to arrange in such a manner that the flour would be distributed in equal proportion to all producing units, adding that should his company fail to receive its portion of flour, he would take up the matter with higher authorities.

He expressed his thanks to the director general of Sugar Organization of the Province who always cooperated with his factory.

Shirzad said his company had



so far received no loans and no sort of cooperation from Bank Mellat Iran.

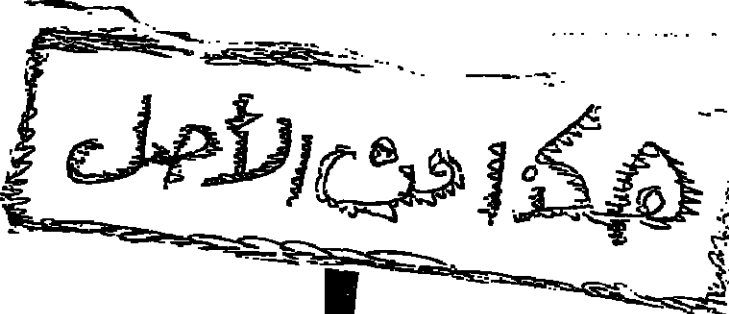
"The only bank that has always helped us was Bank Sepah and I sincerely thank the officials of that bank who have been helpful to us. I also thank Mr. Fallah, director general of Planning and Economic Affairs of Gilan Province and particularly engineer Akhondzadeh, director general of the Industries of the province who has time and again assisted us in our operation."

He said he expected to receive loans under Note 50 of the Budget Law from Bank Sepah and under Note 3 from the governor general's office.

"As ratified by the government and the Majlis and stipulated by the Leader of the Revolution the disabled war veterans have special value for the government and I expect the officials of the province to closely cooperate with Yaser Sahel Company whose employees are composed of the families of martyrs and disabled," Shirzad concluded.

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IRAN

POLITICAL NEWS

Declaration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

Ukraine is deeply concerned with the developments in Iraq over the past few days. The situation was aggravated as a result of actions taken by Iraq, who in violation of the respective U.N. resolutions, employed military forces in the Kurdish conflict. This led the U.S. to launch a missile raid, aimed at military infrastructure targets in Iraq.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine proceeds from the necessity to refrain from further use of forceful means in settling the conflict in the region, to strictly adhere to the corresponding U.N.

resolutions on Iraq, and to establish political dialogue between the government of Iraq and the Kurdish factions.

Bearing in mind the situation in Iraq, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine calls on the Secretary General of the U.N. to continue to expend all appropriate efforts for the quickest possible implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 986 (1995).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine anticipates that the resolution of this situation will not lead to the further heightening of See Page 13

Okinawans Gear up for Weekend Referendum

NAGA, JAPAN (AFP) - With the historic referendum on the future of U.S. bases in Okinawa only a couple of days away, the streets of Naha were jammed Friday with cars blaring campaign messages and people handing out leaflets.

Bearing the curious Japanese-English expression of "your opinion, just now!", yellow banners flapping in the sub-tropical wind urged Okinawa's 910,000 voters to take part in Japan's first prefectural referendum.

Voters will be asked today whether they support both a reduction and consolidation of U.S. military facilities and a review of the bilateral status of forces agreement under the 36-year-old Japan-U.S. security treaty.

The referendum comes a year after a local 12-year-old girl was raped by three American servicemen, igniting a series of protests

including the biggest since Okinawa was returned to Japan in 1972 after 27 years of U.S. occupation.

The Naha city government has allocated 50 million yen (\$460,000) to promote the referendum. Among the measures is a "baby elephant cage" in central Naha, modeled after a U.S. communications site which has become the focus of a dispute with a local landowner who is refusing to renew his lease.

Located next to a major shopping center, it has become a mock polling booth for young people between 16 and 19 to express their view on the bases.

Tied to the scaled-down antennas are red, blue, orange and green handkerchiefs carrying various messages ranging from "Scrap the Bases, Build a Disney-

Overwhelming Majority Seen for Global Test-Ban Treaty Adoption

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - An overwhelming majority of states in the U.N. General Assembly is expected to adopt a global nuclear test-ban treaty next week despite an Indian attempt to block the pact.

Australian Ambassador Richard Butler, whose country spearheaded the initiative to bring the treaty from Geneva for adoption here, said Friday that he had secured at least 120 co-sponsors of a draft resolution that he will present to the assembly on Monday.

The number, which includes nations from all continents and nuclear threshold state Israel, means that at least two-thirds of the assembly will vote in favor of the treaty which sup-



MURUROA, FRENCH POLYNESIA, FRANCE: A giant TV screen shows a shock wave leaping vertically from the deep shaft in which a French underground nuclear explosion took place Sept. 5 at the atoll of Mururoa. In the background is the coast of the atoll. (AFP Photo)

porters describe as a major step along the road towards nuclear disarmament.

The comprehensive test-ban treaty, which had been negotiated in Geneva for almost three years, provides for an end to nuclear test explosions but fails to mention computer simulation tests.

Australia acted to save the treaty after India last month issued a double veto in Geneva, blocking the treaty and also its planned transfer to New York for adoption.

Butler's procedural resolution, which provides for the treaty's adoption and its opening for signature while the pact itself remains closed to any renegotiation, aims to circum-

vent the Indian veto.

At a news conference here on Friday, India's U.N. envoy Prakash Shah warned that he would use the opportunity next week to explain New Delhi's position to the "124 countries" which were not at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, a group of 61 countries.

Butler and his allies are expecting India and a handful of states such as Cuba, Iran and Libya, to attempt a procedural blockage of the assembly's work, and even to try to reopen the treaty.

But they are so confident of success that they are already planning a

signing ceremony here for world leaders in the week of September 23.

India blocked the treaty on the grounds that it failed to prevent the continued development of nuclear weapons by the five nuclear powers, and requires 44 named states including India to sign the pact before it can come into force.

Shah accused the five nuclear powers, Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, of drawing up the list precisely in the knowledge that India would not sign.

"Do they really want this treaty? Because if they wanted it to come into force they would not have done something that ensures that it will not come into force," he said.

Diplomats say the 44 countries are those with nuclear reactors and which should therefore commit themselves to a test ban. But the list of 44 was drawn up with India, Israel and Pakistan in mind, according to experts.

Australia and the resolution's co-sponsors intend to send a clear message to India that it will be isolated internationally by not signing the treaty in the three years fixed by the text once it is opened for signature here following adoption.

All five nuclear powers are committed to signing the treaty, although China and Russia have not, so far, co-sponsored Butler's Resolution.

Former U.S. disarmament negotiator James Leonard noted that it had been tough to get all five on See Page 13

Chechens Commemorate

"Independence" and Its Cost

GROZNY, RUSSIA (AFP) - Chechens marked the fifth anniversary of their fateful bid for independence on Friday and mourned its terrible cost, while hoping that peace had finally come.

The rebel President, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, addressed about 5,000 people gathered in the central square of the capital Grozny, surrounded by acres of rubble and the skeletons of apartment buildings, saying "thanks to God we have managed to get peace."

"We must not doubt that we have succeeded. We wanted peace for a long time and we asked the whole world to stop the war, but no one helped us... but today, our hearts weep for those who have died," he said.

He called for forgiveness in the wake of last week's peace accord.



LEBED

which stopped the war and promised the Chechens a chance to decide on their independence bid in five years time.

There are widespread fears that when Russian troops begin pulling out of the Muslim Caucasus Republic, Chechens who fought the Russians will turn on those who worked for Moscow.

But Yandarbiyev urged restraint, saying "we must pardon those who shed blood in the name of the pro-Russian authorities. We must firmly decide against vengeance, otherwise there will be no peace."

The atmosphere was calm. Cattle were slaughtered in the traditional manner at remembrance ceremonies and there were cries of "God is great."

"Today it is festive because we have peace," said Malika, a 40-year-old woman. "Of course people have lost relatives. My son was killed fighting and my husband was killed by bombs. But I console myself in seeing what they died for," she said.

Portraits of Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen president who declared his tiny republic independent in 1991 and was reportedly killed in a Russian air raid earlier this year, dotted the crowd.

Dudayev effectively took power in Chechnya on September 6, 1991, ousting the Communist authorities. On October 27, 1991, he was elected president, in a poll whose validity was disputed by the Russian authorities, and he declared unilateral independence several days later.

The Russian army attacked in December 1994 and Dudayev, a former Soviet air force general, became a legendary figure for his resistance and huge numbers of ordinary people refuse to believe that he has died.

Most estimates say that 30,000 to 40,000 people have died in the 20-month war, most of them civilians. However, the Russian peace envoy Alexander Lebed said that 70,000 to 90,000 had been killed, with three times that number injured.

The accord, signed August 31, has been greeted with relief in Chechnya and Lebed has become a

hero to a people exhausted by war.

In Moscow however both the plan and Lebed are under attack.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin cast further doubt on the accord Friday, saying that Chechnya could not be allowed independence.

"We spent too long uniting Russia and did not unite so that later we would break it up into parts," Chernomyrdin was quoted as saying by Itar-Tass on a visit to the Urals city of Orenburg.

On Thursday, the premier said a peace accord ending the war and putting off any final decision on Chechnya's political status until December 2001 was a "political document. It does not of itself bear any juridical obligation."

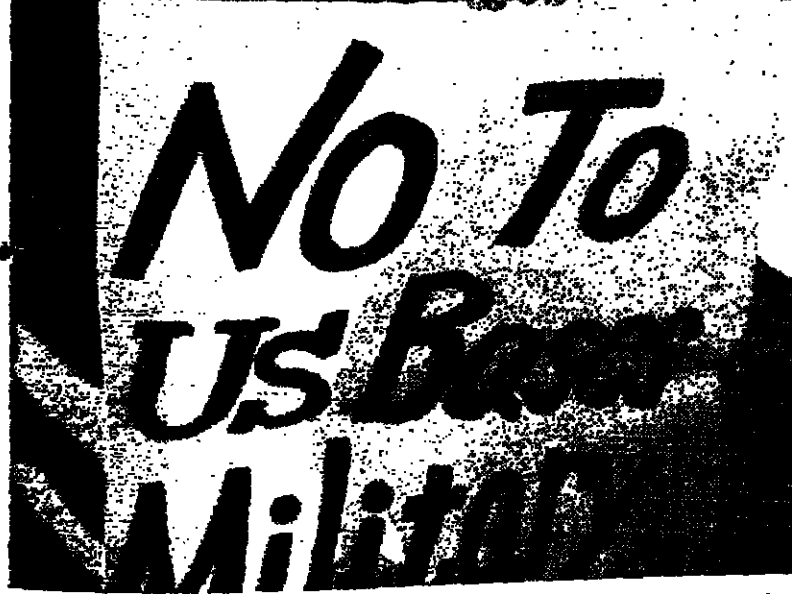
President Boris Yeltsin said Thursday that he supported Le-



DUDAYEV

bed's controversial peace mission, described by Communists and nationalists as a capitulation to the rebels, but said he opposed a quick withdrawal of Russian troops, the Chechens' biggest demand.

"I don't think we need to hurry on this question," he said in an interview broadcast on NTV television.



TOKYO, JAPAN: A woman raises her fist during an anti-U.S. demonstration at Meiji Park Oct. 21 following a mass rally to protest a rape case by U.S. marine soldiers. 10,000 union members and civil group members participated in the rally in Tokyo. (AFP Photo)

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Taiwan Immigrants to Canada Settle in Vancouver

VANCOUVER (AFP) - Taiwan's wealthy are flocking to this western Pacific city following the path of residents from Hong Kong in taking advantage of Canada's policy of welcoming immigrant investors.

Some 3,638 people from Taiwan immigrated to Canada in the first five months of this year, the majority of whom have settled near Vancouver in the province of British Columbia.

Vancouver, the third largest Canadian city with 1.8 million residents, is home to one of the largest communities of Asian origin in the Americas, mostly from Hong Kong.

James Ho, ex-president of the Taiwan Entrepreneurs and Investors Association, said the current situation in Taiwan is similar to that of Hong Kong in the 1970s when many immigrants came to Canada.

"The richest people leave first and to the nicest place they can find," he said.

One immigration specialist said that Taipei's ten richest people already have established their homes in Vancouver and have made substantial investments here.

The largest investments in British Columbia in the past two years were made with Taiwanese capital. In 1995 Taiwan immigrants injected more than (\$653 million) into the province's economy, according to statistics Canada.

"Most of the Taiwanese immigrants are wealthy and are not desperately looking for a job," said Kuo Kwan-Ying of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.

"If they need a job, they can get one easily in Toronto. But most just want to find a good environment, a place with a good educational system and a good climate."

And the Taiwanese immigrants seem to be better off on average than those from Hong Kong.



than those from Hong Kong.

The fortune of new Taiwan immigrants is estimated to have topped (\$365 million) last year, close to the 560 million dollars from almost twice the number of Hong Kong immigrants.

Deposits from Taipei are being placed in Canadian banks at a rate four times faster than normal, according to Randy Chen, director of the International Commercial Bank of Cathay in Vancouver.

As the number of Taiwanese investors who settle here is on the rise, for the first time Hong Kong investor immigration has slowed.

From January to May, 656 immigrant investors from Taiwan came to Canada, while 686 came from Hong Kong.

To obtain the status of investing immigrant, a person must deposit (\$255,500) in a savings account, have at least (\$365,000) in liquid assets and own a Canadian business.

Andean Pilgrimage Blends Pagan, Christian Rites

MOUNT AUSANGATE, PERU (Reuters) - Peruvian male trainer Jose Laine had his previous prayers to the God of Mount Ausangate answered, so he was a bit bolder this time.

"I asked the God for a plot of land and then for some sheep, and he gave me both. Now I'm going to ask for a Van," said Laine during a recent pilgrimage to this sacred mountain in the Peruvian Andes.

Laine's voice was barely discernible above the drums, flutes and singing of the myriad music groups among the 70,000 believers who flocked to Mount Ausangate for a six-day ceremony last month.

Meanwhile, an Indian woman intoned at the entrance to the Colluray Shrine at the foot of Ausangate, 16,400 feet (5,000 meters) above sea-level.

"Thirty thousand dollars for one sol, \$30,000 for one sol," she repeated, offering mock U.S. money for the price of one Peruvian sol (41 cents).

Believers then used the money to "buy" stones on the mountain representing the houses, cars, credit cards and other consumer goods they aspire to.

The God (or "Apu" in the Quechuan language spoken by Peru's Inca and other Andean peoples) of the Ausangate mountain was worshipped in Peru long before the 16th century Spanish conquest and the subsequent arrival of Christianity.

But the colluray shrine is an entirely Catholic icon.

Peru's best-known annual pilgrimage is an extraordinary blend of native Indian and traditional Catholic rites and beliefs - with a strong dose of modern-day materialism.

"This festival is an Andean-Christian mix," said Miguel Martinez, an anthropologist from Cuzco, the former capital of

Peru's pre-conquest Inca empire.

"The Ausangate is the most important God in southern Peru," said Jesuit Priest Carlos Flores of the mountain, which is an eight-hour drive from Cuzco and soars to 20,934 feet (6,384 meters) above sea-level.

"On the other hand, the Colluray shrine is a sacred, religious place with very ancient roots which have been 'Christianized'."

The 'Christianizing' of indigenous Peru began with the early 16th century arrival of the Spanish Conquistadors.

in a festival of dance, song and religious rites.

The most striking figures in the pilgrimage on Ausangate were the 300 young men chosen from local communities for their superior strength to represent the "Inca policemen."

These youths climbed the mountain, endured a night in the open in freezing temperatures as part of a ritual test of strength, and then heaved huge blocks of ice down on their backs in the manner of Christ carrying the cross.

The ice symbolized both an expiation of sins in the Christian



Through a combination of bravery, luck, skill and trickery, a small band of Spanish soldiers managed to subdue the mighty Inca empire which had in the 13th century achieved ascendancy over the multitude tribes living in the region.

Modern-day Peru still mirrors this joint heritage in many aspects of society - and nowhere is this clearer than on Ausangate where the Indian and Christian traditions have blended into one.

"I support them and I allow them to carry on with their beliefs," said Flores, who has held masses at the Colluray Shrine for the last six years. "Why should the Catholic church be open to many cultures but not to the culture which has our roots?"

Around the Colluray Shrine, tens of thousands of pilgrims camped for six days, taking part

tradition and a renewal of life in the Indian tradition. "For the Andean people, the snow is the life. They are reproductive rites," said Flores. "In the Christian culture, water is also life."

"In bringing down the ice blocks, we are paying for sins. The ice washes away the sin," said one of the 'policemen,' Wilfredo Nina, 22.

The 'policemen,' who cover their faces with balacavas and wear tunics representing animals, whipped the pilgrims throughout the festival, prohibiting the drinking of alcohol but allowing the chewing of coca-leaves to guard against mountain sickness.

"Our God, the mountain, is the lord of Colluray. From our forefathers came all this custom and it is going to continue until death," said Nina.



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